

THE GUARDIAN

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TRAVEL
The great game in Africa
Pages 8-9

ARTS
Mad Maxim III
Page 10

PEOPLE
Burgess and blasphemy
Page 11

SPORT
Pages 13-16
Border warfare

WEEKEND MONEY
Pages 21-25
A cheque in Europe

Embattled president accepts freeze on defence spending

Reagan forced to concede on arms

From Alex Brummer in Washington

In a significant political setback, President Reagan, desperate to cut the huge budget deficits without a tax increase, yesterday agreed to accept a freeze in defence spending.

There were dramatic scenes in the Senate as a \$56 billion deficit reduction plan, which includes a freeze on retirement pensions, was finally passed by 60 votes to 49 in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Hopes of an early cut in interest rates surged through Wall Street yesterday as the President's agreement to the military spending freeze.

Leader's comment: page 12

which effectively ends his string of congressional successes on the military budget. BUDGE & FLANK

On his return to the White House last night, Mr Reagan said: "How sweet it is to return home to 50-50 victory for spending restraints and no tax increase. I am convinced this is the only serious budget package that could have been passed."

He said he felt jeopardised in the area of national security and pledged to ask for supplementary defence money.

But even with the White House concessions on defence spending and retirement pensions, which the President promised not to cut in his reelection campaign, there may still be serious problems in getting the package through the Democratic-controlled House which is likely to have

severe doubts about the social security freeze.

The Democratic plans in the House all include some modest tax increase on America's large corporations—a step the White House is determined to avoid.

The fragility of the deal worked out between Mr Reagan and the Senate majority leader, Senator Robert Dole, was evident from the high drama of the vote itself. The final vote was taken shortly before 2 a.m. when the Republican senator from California, Senator Pete Wilson, was brought to the Capitol by ambulance from the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he is recovering from a ruptured appendix.

Senator Wilson was pushed into the Senate chamber in a wheelchair and with an intravenous tube attached to his body. He received a standing ovation from both Republicans and Democrats.

Speaking from his wheelchair, Senator Wilson told the Senate: "I think this package is a terrible turkey but the alternative of not producing a budget would be worse."

Under the plan, some \$56 billion will be slashed from the budget in the 1986 financial year and the projected deficit of \$200 billion will be cut in half over the next three years to \$106 billion.

This prospect brightened the New York financial markets yesterday. Share prices shot up on Wall Street and the US's top monetary guru, Dr Henry Kaufman, predicted that the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, would reduce its key discount rate in the next two or three weeks.

This he expected would be a turning point in the battle to turn back page, col. 8

7m face £500m cuts in housing benefit

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

More than 7 million people claiming housing benefit—including 4 million pensioners—are to face cuts aimed at saving £500 million, probably before the end of the year, the Cabinet is understood to have decided.

The Cabinet made its decision on Thursday, when it discussed the reviews of the welfare system carried out by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Security Secretary.

Support for water rates for those on supplementary benefit is also to be abolished. Some three and a half million claimants now receiving supplementary benefit are to be asked to pay 20 per cent of their rates bills in order to cut another £250 million from the present £4 billion a year housing benefit bill.

The Cabinet has also decided to abolish the right of the unemployed to claim mortgage interest payments from supplementary benefit for the first six months of the year. The mortgage interest payments are to be asked to waive the interest payments or renegotiate the loans.

This change will affect at least 235,000 people and substantially reduce the £170 million a year spent by the Department of Health on mortgage interest payments.

Details of the Cabinet decisions have been passed to Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dundermire East, who yesterday announced that he was tabling a series of questions to Mr Fowler.

Housing benefit is at present claimed by 4 million pensioners; one and a half million unemployed; and 1.5 million low wage earners. £500,000 single parents and 250,000 sick and disabled.

Under the proposed changes 1.8 million people would cease to be eligible to claim benefit. Over 1.2 million would be home owners—mainly people receiving occupational pensions. The remaining 600,000 would be private and council tenants.

The remaining 5 million will suffer under plans to replace the two taper systems—one for rents and one for rates—with a single simplified system. The new single taper would be applied more harshly, leaving claimants to pay a much greater proportion of their weekly rent and rate bills.

It is understood that the new taper will be 70p in the pound—compared with the present combined 38p in the pound for rent and rates. The Cabinet wishes to phase this in over several months.

For the very poor—who at present have all their rates and rent paid by housing benefit—the new 70p taper rule will reduce their benefit. They will also lose the help they receive towards water rate bills, which currently averages £20 a week.

The Cabinet decided to compromise over Treasury plans—passed to the Guardian last month—to make the unemployed pay 20 per cent of rents. It decided that benefit payments should only fund 80 per cent of rents, but local authorities are to be left with the discretion to top up the remaining 20 per cent.

The combined effect of the changes is that the very poorest will have to find an extra £150 a year to meet the average rate and water rate bill. Mr Fowler is understood to want to publish the green paper, together with the housing benefit review, as soon as Parliament returns on June 3, after the Whitson recess.



CHOPESTICK DIPLOMACY: PLO leader Yasser Arafat attends a banquet at the Great Hall of the People in Peking after talks with the Chinese leaders on the Palestinian issue

Thatcher in velvet gloves shows Scots will of iron

By James Naughtie

Class warfare is back in vogue. The Prime Minister last night responded to Tory anxiety about her own and the Government's performance by emphasising that a blend of humanity and determination was part of her resolve to approach. But there was no sign of a shift in policy.

Mrs Thatcher faced a Scottish Conservative conference in Perth which has been restive over the Tories electoral weakness in Scotland and openly critical of the Government's style. She told them, in effect, that her toughness should not be mistaken for inflexibility.

She told the conference, still smarting over the rates issue that her approach would produce "one nation"—the traditional holy grail of the Tories—and tried to temper her resolution with a softer style. Her speech received a traditional standing ovation.

She said: "It is a time for cool heads—a time for keep-

ing calmly on a choppy course, not stirring the problems but looking them in the face with humanity and determination—a time to reaffirm our vision, to go forward, confidently blending the new with the old."

It was a recognition of the Government's mid-term difficulty, but in her policy pronouncements there was no sign of a shift. The emphasis was

on the atmosphere traditionally conjured up for the Prime Minister's rallying speech was somewhat marred by an exchange of sharp words between the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, and the Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger over the £40 million relief agreed to help commercial rate payers hit hard by Scottish revaluation and cuts in rate support grant.

After a speech in which Mr Lawson said that the Government's style there was nothing of substance which the party wets in Perth could grasp and cherish.

The words were carefully aimed at her critics. On Thursday evening Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, was in touch with Downing Street from Perth to pass on his observations—that morale was low and concern about the rates issue and general style of ministers was deep. The message was clear: reassurance was required.

Corps increases Tory disquiet, page 2

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Corps increases Tory disquiet, page 2

Bombers kill 28 in new Sikh offensive

From Eric Silver and Ajoy Bose in New Delhi

Bombs exploded in several North Indian cities, including New Delhi, last night, killing at least 28 people and injuring more than 50.

They were suspected to be the beginning of a new offensive by Sikh terrorists to disrupt efforts by the Government to end the three-year strife in Punjab.

In an organised onslaught extremists attacked trains and buses in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and New Delhi simultaneously, beijing claims by the Government that Sikh terrorism had been crushed with the army operation in the Golden Temple last June.

Clamping maximum security measures in New Delhi and other cities and towns in North India, the army chief, General Vaidya, announced that "extremists are on the loose again."

The Prime Minister, Mr Gandhi, and President Singh have cancelled overseas trips scheduled this month. Mr Gandhi was to visit Moscow.

A bomb blasted an express train as it entered Meerut railway station, 50 miles from New Delhi, killing six people and wounding eight. In New Delhi, eight bombs exploded on buses in a shop in the street and in a rickshaw. Another bomb exploded in a bus station in neighbouring Haryana state, killing three people.

In Punjab, Sikh terrorists assassinated a leading Hindu politician in the district capital of Hoshiarpur, 62 miles east of Amritsar.

Another man was stabbed to death, and dozens of shops were set on fire, when a Hindu mob went on the rampage as news of the killing spread. The security forces imposed an indefinite curfew on the town, but had difficulty in bringing the protests under control. They arrested 35 rioters. This was the third murder of a Hindu politician in Punjab in 10 days.

Mr Balbir Singh, the president of the opposition Lok Dal party in Punjab, was shot by two men on a scooter as he was driving to his farm on the outskirts of Hoshiarpur. They escaped after firing automatic weapons.

Turn to back page, col. 5

Next week

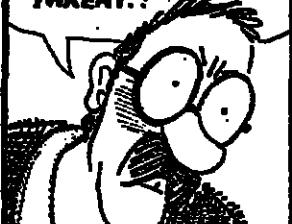
Monday

TOO MUCH TELLY

Why do we see so much American television? And why do the ITV companies keep bending the rules that they themselves have made to limit it? The Media Page considers the procession that runs from Kojak's New York to Dallas and back to Sesame Street.

PLUS POSY

I will NOT be cast as a heavy, Victorian father!... why'd you make me into a THREAT!?



Tuesday

WAY OUT

Coming out is one thing, staying out is something entirely different. A reluctant lesbian talks to Guardian Women

THIRD DEGREE

Good planning thinks 10 years ahead, plans three years ahead and copes with now. That's the theory. In practice, what are we to expect from the Higher Education Green Paper? Education Guardian reports

Wednesday

BAD LOSERS

Super Bowl Sunday in America usually means a marked increase in the number of wife beatings. Guardian Women looks at a growing problem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heathrow setback

THE opening of the fourth Heathrow terminal has been put back until next year because of a row between British Airways and the British Airport authority. Back page.

Airport access

THE Home Office has confirmed that airline staff have regularly been allowed access to people detained by immigration officials at Heathrow in order to obtain fare money from them. Back page.

No case

THE judge hearing the case against three miners accused of murdering a taxi driver ruled yesterday that there was no case to answer against one of the men. Page 3.

Recreations on kerb bill

RECREATIONS against two Conservative MPs followed the collapse in a private member's bill intended to ban kerb-crawling. Page 2.

Exchange plan

A PALESTINIAN commando group will exchange three Israeli soldiers next week for 1,800 Palestinians and Lebanese held by Israel, according to Palestinian sources.

The Guardian

TECHNICAL production problems meant some short falls in supplies of the paper to some areas yesterday. We apologise for the inconvenience caused to readers.

The weather

MAINLY dry with sunny periods. Details, back page.

INSIDE

Arts, Reviews	10
Bridge	14
Business & Finance	19-25
Chess	15
Classified advertising	4, 26
Crosswords	29, 30
Grassroots	24
Home News	2, 3
Letters	12
Overseas News	6, 7
People	11
Sports News	13-15
Travel	8
TV & RADIO	28
ENTERTAINMENTS	27
PERSONAL	29

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE			
Austria	26	10p	10p
Belgium	26	10p	10p
Denmark	26	10p	10p
France	26	10p	10p
Germany	26	10p	10p
Italy	26	10p	10p
Netherlands	26	10p	10p
Spain	26	10p	10p
Sweden	26	10p	10p
Switzerland	26	10p	10p

A millionaire's lot is not a happy one

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Who wants to be a millionaire? "I don't," might be most people's response after reading a new study on America's almost one million millionaires, for whom the lustre of being wealthy seems to be wearing thin.

The study of America's millionaires by Dr Thomas Stanley, of the Georgia State University, has found that the traditional image of millionaires cavorting on the beaches of St Tropez, basking on the slopes of Aspen, driving their Cadillac or Rolls-Royce to the races, or simply showing a good cigar, is far from reality.

America's average millionaire is more than 40 years old, a life of drudgery. His watch will be a \$50 Seiko, rather than a \$1,000 Cartier, he wouldn't know a Picasso if he fell over it and he slaves away behind a counter until 6 pm each night—even on Saturdays, when the local baseball team is at home.

Professor Stanley, who says there are some 350,000 millionaires in the United States at present and that there will be one million by 1987, found that most of the country's rich are simply ordinary small businessmen leading mundane, hard lives. They are more likely to be found at their dry-

cleaning shops on a Saturday afternoon than on the tennis court, or drinking instant coffee at the counter rather than Pimm's around the pool.

Millionaires tend to work longer hours than ordinary people, carry a credit card from a down-market department store such as Sears, have

few fancy girlfriends or mistresses, and drive around in Ford or at best Volvo estate cars rather than a Ferrari or a Porsche. "These are the most traditional people in the world," said Dr Stanley.

If you want to meet a genuine American millionaire, or become one, it's best to go to

California, where there are 114,427 rather than to Vermont which has 1,031. Most of them are in the booming south of the country rather than on Fifth Avenue in New York or among the Boston Brahmins, according to the Georgia survey.

But if you are looking for financial advice from your millionaire, forget it. While millionaires are generally conservative about their affairs, putting money aside for their children's university education are seeking to ensure protection for their retirement.

If they ever reach it, with their exhausting work schedule—they are often scatter-

brained about their finances. Many of America's modern millionaires apparently don't know how to balance their cheque book. One of their millionaires in Professor Stanley's study group admitted to leaving large sums of cash around the house because his wife had never been comfortable writing cheques.

While four out of 10 wives of millionaires work, their husbands generally prefer them not to be superstars. As a result of their 75-hour weeks, most millionaires are outlived by their wives. They generally sell off the day cleaning or hamburger franchise at below its worth and retire to Florida.

Head teachers warn Joseph of conflict

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Head teachers who have so far kept out of the industrial action with its crippling schools in England and Wales yesterday hinted that they may take their own action if the Government maintains its tough line on teachers' pay.

After months of trying to keep the schools going during the two biggest teacher unions, the heads seem close to losing their patience with the uncompromising stand taken by the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph.

In a large statement yesterday, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, Britain's biggest head teachers' group, warned of confrontation unless Sir Keith abandoned his "totally negative" attitude. "It is antagonising an increasing number of our members," he said.

Head teachers would be

most unlikely to strike, but if they chose not to increase their workload by struggling to keep the schools open many thousands more children could lose education.

Pupils taking vital public examinations would be sitting there in conditions of considerable disruption.

Until now the NART has kept out of the industrial action, much to the anger of the big unions, in the belief that a negotiated settlement was possible.

However, Sir Keith's latest insistence to the massed ranks of the local education authorities that the Government would not make any advance on the 4 per cent offer that has been rejected by the teachers appears to have worn thin their moderate line.

Mr Hart said yesterday that all the unions were united in the conviction that teachers were grossly underpaid—the

Turn to back page, col. 5



What are his chances of a happy retirement?

Almost half the people who die before they reach 75 do so as a result of heart disease.

Yet the factors that influence this may start in the cradle. Or even earlier.

That's why the British Heart Foundation is funding research work into this and all other aspects of heart disease.

But being a charity we rely totally on your support. Send off the coupon today and find out how you can help beat Britain's biggest killer.

(Figures taken from official Government statistics for 1982 on deaths under 75 in Britain)

We can't beat heart disease without you.

Please send me more information on the work of the BHF and details of how I can help. Send this coupon to the British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4BL.

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British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity.

Recriminations as measure's passage to the Lords is blocked despite concessions to opponents

Tory MPs blamed for failure of kerb-crawling bill

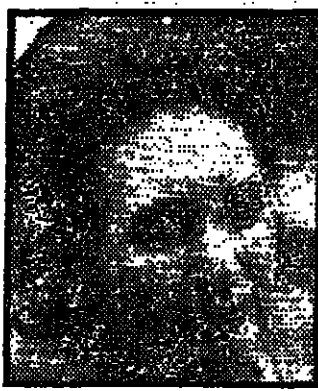
By David McKie,
Parliamentary Correspondent

A private members bill to ban kerb-crawling collapsed in the House of Commons yesterday amidst fierce recriminations against two Conservative MPs who, the bill's sponsor claimed, had destroyed it.

Miss Janet Fookes's Sexual Offences Bill, which would also have tightened penalties for indecent assault and attempted rape, was before the House for its report stage and third reading. Each stage had been completed with a fair chance of becoming law.

But the two Conservative backbenchers, Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire West) and Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North) appeared intent on halting its progress.

Mr Parris—who spoke for 65 minutes on the first new clause to come before the



Miss Janet Fookes—
"hurt and angry"

House yesterday—and Mr Marlow insisted on calling a division on the clause which was approved by 33 votes to 10.

When Mr Marlow then moved a further new clause it became clear that there was no

chance of the bill being completed before the debate was due to end at 2.30pm.

Miss Fookes told the House that her two colleagues had destroyed a modest bill which would have brought real relief to women and local residents who were being affronted and harassed by kerb-crawlers.

"There has been filibustering by my two honourable friends. This bill has been killed off, killed off by the action of my two honourable friends. I feel deeply hurt and very, very angry," she said.

A Labour sponsor of the bill, Mr Tom Cox, who was leading the bill's supporters, said: "There has been a long single word. He has asked Miss Fookes to make the bill apply only to 'persistent' kerb-crawling. She refused, believing that it would water down essential protection offered by her bill."

Mr Parris had been openly opposed to the bill from the

start, had spoken against it on a second reading, had become a member of the standing committee and continued his opposition there.

But Mr Marlow who had come to yesterday's debate with no such involvement had, Mr Cox said, done a grave disservice to the House.

Mr Marlow made no response to the attack. Mr Parris told the House that there was a real problem and new laws were needed to deal with it. But the job should be done by a Home Office bill dealing with all the problems of prostitution.

Mr Parris's continued opposition appeared to turn on a single word. He had asked Miss Fookes to make the bill apply only to "persistent" kerb-crawling. She refused, believing that it would water down essential protection offered by her bill.

Mr Marlow told the press

conference that, had it been left to Miss Fookes, herself and the Labour side, the bill would have got its third reading. He was particularly distressed that "two unrepresentative opinions" should have finished it off.

He said that the main provisions of the bill, based on the recommendations of the Criminal Law Revision Committee, had strong Home Office support. But he saw no chance of the Government finding time to produce its own legislation on kerb-crawling next session, since the Home Office allocation of legislative time was already fully booked.

The provisions on increased penalties for assault and rape might, however, appear in a government criminal justice bill.

But Mr Marlow conceded that a government bill would be a question for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet



Mr Matthew Parris—
65-minute speech

to decide. Mr Marlow attacked Mr Marlow and Mr Parris at the press conference.

He said that Mr Marlow had tabled an amendment which opposed the increased penalties for assault and rape—a move he found somewhat in-

consistent with Mr Marlow's usual political position. "Mr Marlow is a prominent member of the Tory law and order lobby."

Mr Parris's last word to the House had seemed more concerned with how prostitutes found their clients than with how the community could respond to kerb-crawling.

Mr Parris, who insisted that he did not want to kill the bill, said that Mr Marlow had been saying that his aim was to wreck or obstruct it. As a result he had received a great many letters, some of them abusive, and threats to put bricks through windows of his home in Wandsworth.

"My aim is to make the bill a fairer one so that we catch people who ought to be caught and do not put in danger people who ought not to be put in danger, either of arrest or of prosecution," he said.

Serps adds to rising Tory disquiet

By David McKie,
Parliamentary Correspondent

Some Conservative MPs were apprehensive yesterday that the Government is about to compound its electoral unpopularity by pushing ahead with measures to phase out state earnings-related pensions and change the law on shop Sunday opening.

They believe that these moves will divide the party at Westminster, alienate traditional Conservative supporters and risk votes.

They put some blame on the Prime Minister's impetuosity and some on the failure of senior ministers who they believe, share their fears to caution her adequately.

Their misgivings add to the disquiet in the parliamentary party over unemployment, rating, reform and government policy presentation which has been described by the former chairman of the backbench Conservatives' 1982 Committee, Sir Edward du Cann, as "staggeringly inept".

The former Conservative Cabinet minister, Sir Ian Gilmour said in Cambridge on Thursday: "If instead of the necessary modifications, we are given intensification and extension of present policies, there is a great danger that a mid-term setback will be followed by an end of term disaster."

A survey of 200 Tory MPs by BBC's Newlight programme found that 44 per cent favoured immediate policy changes on unemployment, but 56 per cent opposed such changes.

The survey showed a huge endorsement for Sir Edward's criticism: 57.5 per cent agreed absolutely, 18 per cent generally agreed, but 24.5 per cent disagreed.

Among remedies, 39 per cent wanted the party to change its tone and communicate better, 15 per cent favoured replacing the party chairman, Mr John Gummer, 10.5 per cent wanted the cabinet reshuffled, and 8 per cent wanted the policies changed.

There was 94 per cent approval for Mr Fowler's proposed changes in the social security system, with 62.5 per cent favouring abolition of Serps. Only 3.5 per cent opted for cautious reform.

Backbenchers sceptical believe that figures could grow as MPs discover the proposals' full implications.

On Serps, they fear the Government will be left wide open to charges of breaking pledges to the electorate and the Commons.

They believe that opposition parties will be able to argue that private pension provision will mean many people getting less benefit at higher cost.

A backbench pensions specialist, Mr Robert McCrindle warned that ending Serps could seriously affect insurance contributions.

Other Conservative MPs are apprehensive that the Government may try to rush through fundamental changes in the social security system without adequate consultation.

The Commons is due to debate the Audit Report on shop hours on Monday. The Government's motion favours legislation in the next session to remove restrictions.

While more than 100 Conservative backbenchers signed an early day motion favouring swift action on shop opening laws others complained that Sunday opening was a matter of conscience requiring a free vote.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, MP for Orpington, said yesterday that he and about 30 other Conservatives would vote against the Government.

"However I expect it will go through because the vast majority of Conservative MPs are afraid of risking their necks by voting against a three-line whip," Mr Stanbrook said.

Home Office ministers had decided that Sunday trading should be allowed, against the wishes of most ordinary Conservative Party members, said, "It demonstrates an arrogance of power from which certain Home Office ministers appear to be suffering."

The Liberal chief whip, Mr Alan Beth, called the Government's decision, "a disgraceful attempt to make MPs put party politics before their religious convictions."

He said that any legislation should protect shopworkers' pay and conditions.

Leader comment, page 13

Keep liquid gas out of flats above sixth floor, councils urged

By Stephen Cook

Some people who live in blocks of council flats should be prevented from using liquid gas containers, Mr Ian Gow, the Housing Minister, said yesterday.

The gas should not be used above the sixth floor in buildings made from large prefabricated panels and which have not been constructed to a high standard or specifically strengthened, he said in a parliamentary answer.

The use of liquefied petroleum gas has increased in council blocks where built-in heating systems are inadequate or expensive.

Mr Gow's warning coincided with the publication of a report by the Building Research Establishment on the structure of Ronan Point. Five people died when part of the tower block in the East End of London collapsed in 1968.

The report's main conclusion, that Ronan Point and some other TWA tower blocks do not have an adequate margin of safety against fires or explosions, was announced earlier this year. But Mr Gow said yesterday that some of the findings had implications for all types of large panel system buildings.

He made it clear that the

Government will not give councils money to help with repairs to homes built from large panel systems, of which there are about 140,000. In 1968, the Labour government paid for half of the £100 million strengthening programme after Ronan Point.

Local authorities should check whether these buildings, whatever the height, could withstand a standard static pressure of 3lb per square inch, said Mr Gow. If not, steps should be taken to ensure that liquid gas was not used above the sixth floor. Councils should consider strengthening the buildings or modifying or replacing heating systems.

The London borough of Newham, which owns the 22-storey Ronan Point, has decided to demolish it and five similar blocks. The council thinks that building new housing will be cheaper than repairing the latest defects, which came to light last year.

There are about 90 TWA high-rise blocks, mainly in London, Sheffield and Sunderland. Yesterday's report said that TWA buildings should be checked to make sure that the joints between panels can adequately resist the spread of fire and fumes.

A woman judge to make court history

By Malcolm Deane

THE COURT of Appeal is expected to get its first woman judge, Dame Rose Heilbrunn, has let it be known to the Bar that he wants to nominate a woman to one of the three vacancies on the 21-member court.

One of the vacancies on the court follows the retirement of Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce, who was promoted from the family division of the High Court, which leaves it open to the Lord Chancellor to nominate one of the three women members of the present family division to follow suit.

The best known is Dame Rose Heilbrunn, who in 1974 became the first woman to be appointed to the High Court. But Dame Rose is aged 70 and most barristers believe that if the Prime Minister is ready to approve the appointment of a woman it will be one of the two other members of the family division.

The next in seniority is Dame Margaret Booth, who was appointed to the High Court in 1979. For the past two years she has been chairman of a working party set up by the Lord Chancellor's Department to examine divorce court procedure. Her committee is about to produce its report and promotion would be one way of thanking her for her work on the committee.

The other woman judge, Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, raises political problems to the extent that she is the sister of the present Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, and her promotion might be construed by some as political or family favouritism.

Dame Elizabeth, who is married to the crown court recorder, Joseph Butler-Sloss, was the Conservative parliamentary candidate for the London constituency of Lambeth, Vauxhall, in 1959. She was promoted to the High Court in 1979.

Dame Margaret and Dame Elizabeth are both aged 51. Lord Justice Butler-Sloss has the final say. As a barrister herself, Mrs Thatcher may feel that she is sufficiently familiar with the Bar not to follow the Lord Chancellor's recommendations.

Union play on GCHQ attacked

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Staff at GCHQ who are defying the ban on unions at the intelligence gathering centre reacted angrily yesterday to an attempt by Civil Service union leaders to offer the government a compromise over the issue.

At a meeting on Thursday night with Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Secretary and head of the home Civil Service, union leaders suggested that officials who have joined their union should pay back the £1,000 (less tax) they received when they handed in their cards last year.

The suggestion was made after Sir Robert said that the declaration signed by officials, agreeing to abide by the new conditions at GCHQ, was legally binding. GCHQ staff dispute this; they say that in any cases the declaration was signed under duress and that money was compensation for loss of rights under the Employment Protection Acts and not for the loss of union membership.

Eleven officials have told management that they have rejoined their union and the Government has threatened three with disciplinary action. One of these, Mr Derek Vaughan, a radio operator at the GCHQ listening post near Scarborough, said yesterday that he bitterly opposed the suggestion put forward by union leaders.

He signed the declaration in the last hour before the Government's March 1, 1984 ultimatum was up. He rejoined his union after the High Court ruling—since overturned by the Appeal Court and the House of Lords—that the ban was illegal. The issue involved fundamental matters of principle, he said.

Similar views were expressed by other GCHQ "rebels". Though Sir Robert is reported to have acknowledged that the Government was concerned about the festering problems at GCHQ, he insisted that it had not changed its position. Ministers are concerned about the prospect of a growing number of GCHQ officials rejoining their unions and that they may not know how many do so. Thirty-eight are believed to have rejoined so far and others have suggested that they will.

The Government is also concerned about the lack of support for the staff federation set up in place of unions. Only 1,632 staff have agreed to join, about 20 per cent of the total at GCHQ.

Printing by Shah group of strike-hit paper sets dilemma for journalists

By Patrick Wintour,
Labour Staff

Management at the Kent Messenger revealed yesterday that the strike-hit paper is being set and printed by Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger group newspapers in Warrington. Members of the National Union of Journalists had been attempting for two weeks to find out where the paper was being produced. Mr Shah's company is blacked by the NUJ.

The deputy general secretary of the NUJ, Mr Jake Ecclesstone, is to meet the Kent Messenger NUJ chapter on Monday and is likely to be under pressure to ask the chapel to strike. However, a strike over the use of Mr Shah's company could be deemed unlawful secondary strike action.

Mr Peter Edgley, the Kent Messenger's deputy group managing director, said last night: "The NUJ are not happy with the news of where we are being printed, but it's essential that we produce papers to produce the revenue to pay the staff."

The management has sacked 142 members of the National Graphical Association, the printers' union. They had struck over the introduction of computerised equipment to be used in the advertising and accounts department.

The NGA is asking the NUJ leadership to instruct its members not to cross picket lines at the Kent Messenger. The NUJ chapel has twice rejected strike action, but this was before any formal request from the NGA or news of Mr Shah's involvement.

Relations between the NUJ and the NGA have become increasingly strained. On Wednesday the NUJ executive decided by 11 to 9 votes not to back the minority of its members at the Wolverhampton Express and Star willing to withdraw cooperation over the introduction of direct input technology. More than 60 members of the NGA have been sacked at the Star.

NGA anger over the NUJ's refusal, or inability, to support it in its two disputes could lead the NGA to abandon talks between the two unions over a proposed demarcation agreement in the provincial press.

Steel's warning

By David McKie

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, warned his party yesterday that the Government's refusal to approve BL's corporate plan, the shadow trade and industry secretary, Mr John Smith, said yesterday.

He told a conference in Birmingham on "challenging the industrial decline" that failure to approve a £250 million investment for a new engine development would force the state corporation further into the grasp of the Japanese motor company, Honda.

The engine is needed to replace the ageing "A" series in the Metro, or its successor at the end of the decade. The Government has warned that 5,000 jobs alone at Austin Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham will be lost if the project does not go ahead.

The West Midlands County Council, which organised yesterday's conference, has estimated that 11,760 jobs would be lost in all.

Mr Smith said: "The Government take the rather foolish line that they have not been asked by BL for money for their engine development, and we know that's not true. We know a corporate plan has gone in and there is a request for a major engine development."

"It would be monstrous if the Government pushed or permitted BL to fall further into the hands of Honda. Collaboration is one thing, capitulation is quite another."

But he conceded that there were worrying signs about closer BL links with Honda, where both companies are already collaborating on a new car to replace the larger Rover executive models.

Speakers warned of the danger posed to BL from the Nissan car assembly plant now emerging near Sunderland. Fears are growing that the already vulnerable Midlands components industry could suffer if Nissan encourages the development of component producers around the factory.

Rebuff for BL 'putting Midlands jobs at risk'

By Peter Hetherington,
Northern Labour Correspondent

Thousands of jobs in the Midlands car industry are threatened by the Government's refusal to approve BL's corporate plan, the shadow trade and industry secretary, Mr John Smith, said yesterday.

He told a conference in Birmingham on "challenging the industrial decline" that failure to approve a £250 million investment for a new engine development would force the state corporation further into the grasp of the Japanese motor company, Honda.

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BT workers head for clash on technology

By Patrick Wintour

The 165,000-strong National Communications Union (NCU) is recommending a campaign of selective industrial action from September 1 within British Telecom in an attempt to persuade management to make sure that the findings had implications for all types of large panel system buildings.

The union has adopted a "broad strategy" designed to deal with a projected collapse in employment opportunities due to the spread of new technology within BT. In talks so far, BT has refused to make any concessions towards the NCU's claim for a 32-hour, four-day week. The present basic week is 37½ hours.

Mr Tony Young, chairman of the union's committee respon-

sible for the strategy, said yesterday: "Talks have reached stalemate and we now need something to concentrate BT's mind. British Telecom is one of the largest employers in the country and is at the forefront of new growth industries. Yet, in terms of new employment opportunities, we are providing virtually nothing. For instance, in London this year, only 32 apprentices are being taken on in an area that used to take on hundreds, if not thousands."

The NCU believe that the impact of more reliable equipment will lead to a massive cut in manpower unless there is also a reduced working week, longer holidays, and more flexible working time. BT has rejected the union's demands as commercially crippling.

Race law riles police

By Stephen Cook

The new police disciplinary offence of racial discrimination, the policing of the miners' strike, and the representation of police interests in Parliament are likely to produce some of the liveliest debates at the annual conference of the Police Federation, which begins in Blackpool on Tuesday.

There is a series of motions hostile to the offence of racial discrimination, which was inserted by the House of Lords towards the end of the passage of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. One motion suggests an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in an attempt to have it revoked.

Motions from the Lancashire branch of the federation take up the controversy over the length of time Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, has been parliamentary adviser to the federation. They suggest that there should be at least one adviser from each major party in the Commons and Lords.

Two motions put forward the idea of forming a civilian branch of the federation. Most civilian employees of the police service are represented by Nalco, and some of them were upset by that union's contributions to the miners' strike fund.

There is to be a general debate on the role of the police in industrial disputes, which is likely to centre on the miners' dispute.

Organist who captured the hearts of millions

OBITUARY

THE king of the mighty Wurliwurz, Mr Reginald Dixon, died yesterday in a Blackpool hospital at the age of 80.

Every day for 56 years until his retirement 15 years ago Mr Dixon took Blackpool Tower's monster organ throbbling and quavering through thousands of requests. His signature tune, "Oh I do like to be beside the seaside," became famous to millions of radio listeners and holiday makers.

Reginald Dixon made more than 2,000 broadcasts during his years at the Tower. He became as well-known in the North as Gracie Fields and George Formby.

Born in Sheffield, Reginald Dixon began his performing career as the organist in local Methodist church at the age of 13.

He had always wanted to be a concert pianist, but as he explained: "It was when I tried to play Grieg that I realised I would never make the concert platform."

At 25 he was out of work and auditioned for the Blackpool Tower. The manager asked him what his qualifications were. He replied that he was an Associate of the Royal College of Music.



Reginald Dixon—
star of the Tower

Dixon's Wurliwurz as he busked his way through everything from Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody to "It's My Mother's Birthday Today."

During the war he was a squadron leader in the RAF. In 1966 he was awarded the MBE.

This appreciation appeared in some London editions yesterday.

American actor

EDMOND O'Brien, the American actor who won an Oscar for his performance in The Barefoot Contessa, has died after a long illness, aged 69. Appreciation, page 18.

Athletics chief

ADRIAN PAULLEN, the former president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, died in Eindhoven on Thursday, aged 83. Appreciation, page 14.

Fire caused £250,000 worth of damage to this train, travelling from London to Brighton early yesterday. Fifteen passengers fled from the flames after the train stopped at Burgess Hill, Sussex. Two coaches were gutted and a third was badly damaged. A man was later charged with arson and will appear in court at Haywards Heath on Monday.

Union play on GCHQ attacked

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Staff at GCHQ who are defying the ban on unions at the intelligence gathering centre reacted angrily yesterday to an attempt by Civil Service union leaders to offer the government a compromise over the issue.

At a meeting on Thursday night with Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Secretary and head of the home Civil Service, union leaders suggested that officials who have joined their union should pay back the £1,000 (less tax) they received when they handed in their cards last year.

The suggestion was made after Sir Robert said that the declaration signed by officials, agreeing to abide by the new conditions at GCHQ, was legally binding. GCHQ staff dispute this; they say that in any cases the declaration was signed under duress and that money was compensation for loss of rights under the Employment Protection Acts and not for the loss of union membership.

Eleven officials have told management that they have rejoined their union and the Government has threatened three with disciplinary action. One of these, Mr Derek Vaughan, a radio operator at the GCHQ listening post near Scarborough, said yesterday that he bitterly opposed the suggestion put forward by union leaders.

He signed the declaration in the last hour before the Government's March 1, 1984 ultimatum was up. He rejoined his union after the High Court ruling—since overturned by the Appeal Court and the House of Lords—that the ban was illegal. The issue involved fundamental matters of principle, he said.

Similar views were expressed by other GCHQ "rebels". Though Sir Robert is reported to have acknowledged that the Government was concerned about the festering problems at GCHQ, he insisted that it had not changed its position. Ministers are concerned about the prospect of a growing number of GCHQ officials rejoining their unions and that they may not know how many do so. Thirty-eight are believed to have rejoined so far and others have suggested that they will.

The Government is also concerned about the lack of support for the staff federation set up in place of unions. Only 1,632 staff have agreed to join, about 20 per cent of the total at GCHQ.

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Printing by Shah group of strike-hit paper sets dilemma for journalists

By Patrick Wintour,
Labour Staff

Management at

Miner is cleared of murdering taxi driver

By Paul Hovland

One of the three miners accused of murdering a taxi driver during the coal strike was cleared of the charge yesterday.

Mr Justice Mann told the jury at Cardiff Crown Court that Anthony Williams, aged 28, had no case to answer and that he would direct them later to return a not guilty verdict.

Williams, of Ty Coch, Rhymney, mid-Glamorgan, still faces two charges of conspiring to damage the taxi in which Mr David Wilkie, aged 35, died.

Two other miners, Reginald Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, both aged 21 and

of Rhymney, have pleaded not guilty to murder.

The judge told the jury that they would be discharged from giving verdicts on conspiracy charges against the two. He made his rulings after hearing legal submissions.

The court heard yesterday that when police went to Williams's home 12 hours after Mr Wilkie's death, he allegedly said: "Thank God for that. I have been wanting to talk to you since 8 am this morning. There were three of us. I tried to stop the others doing it. I have been worried sick all day. People have told me to sleep on it but I have been wanting to speak to you all day."

Mr Wilkie was killed when a concrete block and post hit his taxi as he drove with a police convoy under Rhymney Bridge, near Merthyr Tydfil. He was taking a working miner to Merthyr Vale colliery.

Williams allegedly told police that Shankland had called for him and they went to Hancock's house. "We were talking about what we were going to do. We were going to make our presence felt and cause a disturbance. We were going to interrupt the convoy."

"Russell and Dean got a concrete post. I would not help them and told them not to do it. One of them got a big block

near the bridge. They put the things on the bridge and we hid and they ran back and pushed them over the bridge."

"I did not go on the bridge. I stood by the side of it and we all ran together. I was frightened."

Williams had said in a written statement: "I told them that what they were going to do was going to hurt someone. I didn't want anything to do with it."

Detective Chief Superintendent Don Carsley, head of South Wales CID, had asked Williams: "Rumours are circulating that the men who dropped the blocks on the taxi had been given instructions to do so by members of a local

miners' lodge. Is this correct?"

Williams replied: "No. It just happened, as far as I am concerned. I can only tell you that I was called for by Shankland. We went to call for Hancock. They seemed to know what they were going to do."

Mr Carsley told the court that he had refused to allow Shankland to call a solicitor when he was being interviewed because it would have interfered with the inquiry. He denied telling Shankland that he would be jailed for 20 years.

The trial continues on Monday.

A striking miner who threw a stone through a window of a taxi carrying a prisoner to work

injuring the driver, had a three-month prison sentence reduced on appeal yesterday.

Raymond Liddington, aged 29, of Glydwr Street, Abertillery, Gwent, had been sentenced by Ebbw Vale magistrates for causing actual bodily harm to the driver, Mr Howard Crother. He was given seven days to run concurrently, for damaging the taxi which was going to Six Bells colliery.

Both sentences were suspended for two years by the Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court appeal hearing. Liddington, who has been sacked by the National Coal Board, was ordered to pay £200 compensation to the driver.

TGWU may face court action to publish full vote

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

Legal proceedings were threatened yesterday against the Transport and General Workers' Union by one of its members unless it publishes the branch voting returns for the election of its new general secretary in the ballot last year and in the re-ballot which starts on Monday.

The action is being sought by Mr Declan Hughes, a member of the union's agricultural section and the Kent Central branch. He said last night that he had authorised his solicitors to commence High Court proceedings against the TGWU to require it to publish the results of each branch vote. "I also authorise them to seek any further relief which they may advise is necessary in order to ensure that the new election is conducted fairly and democratically, and in accordance with union rules."

Mr Hughes said he was making this last point because the new election was being held under the same rules and he did not think the system satisfactory. He would much prefer postal balloting or a system where the votes were counted by an independent body, such as the Electoral Reform Society.

In another statement yesterday Mr Hughes' solicitors said that they had been instructed

to write to Mr Moss Evans, the TGWU general secretary, threatening such action. They were being advised to do so under rule 13, which said that the branch voting should be declared.

Mr Evans said last night that he understood that Mr Hughes was unlikely to go to court until Tuesday. In the meantime the union's legal secretary, Mr Albert Blythton, would be contacting him today.

But we are of the opinion on the basis of the interpretation of our rule that Mr Hughes' solicitors are incorrect," he said.

The union said yesterday that it was up to the scrutineers appointed by the TGWU general executive council to decide if individual vote by each branch should be published.

Mr Hughes was among the first of several TGWU members to write to Mr Evans last year to complain that the ballot in his branch had been conducted unfairly.

Kent Central members were advised that they had to go to the TGWU's Maidstone office on one particular day to vote. Mr Hughes objected, and was later visited as his home by union officials with a ballot box. He refused to vote on the grounds that similar efforts should be made to contact every other branch member.

NCB attempts to avert Nacods overtime ban

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

The National Coal Board moved yesterday to dissuade members of the pit deputies' union, Nacods, from backing their leadership's call for an overtime ban by repeating its claim that the colliery review procedure remained sacrosanct.

Balloting of the union's 16,000 members started yesterday, and a result is expected next week. An overtime ban by the deputies would cut production by around a fifth.

Mr Michael Eaton, the NCB's spokesman, said yesterday: "Every pit closure that has taken place since the end of the dispute has been the subject of discussion between ourselves and the various unions." The deputies are calling for the ban because they claim that the NCB is shutting pits without putting them through the old or the proposed modified review procedure.

Talks on the new procedure incorporating a new independent appeals body are to resume next Wednesday, with the unions and the NCB at loggerheads over the body's constitution.

Mr Eaton conceded that the board had sent letters to the three mining unions, telling them that pits damaged during the strike would be shut without going through the full procedure, but there had been debate between management and unions at local level, he said.

Mr Eaton's comments drew an angry response from Mr Peter McNestry, the Nacods national secretary. He said: "In several areas members of my union have sought discussions and failed to obtain them, for instance at Frances colliery, in Scotland."

He added that closures at Horden colliery, County Durham, Bates colliery, Northumberland, and Pookmaret colliery in Scotland had all occurred without full consultation.

Nacods is particularly angry that men are being transferred to other pits before the full procedure has been completed, and without the involvement of the unions at national level.

The NCB claims that the transfers are necessary because the pits are in such a bad state that no useful production can take place. In addition,



Mr Peter McNestry—talks refused

pressure from miners seeking voluntary redundancy is forcing the board to speed up transfers.

In advertisements in popular newspapers, Mr Merrick Spanton, board member for personnel, promises that the transfer of miners from a pit and the run-down of operations does not necessarily mean closure. He says that if local unions wish to contest a closure the NCB will not prevent the full review procedure being used.

Nacods has given up its battle against the closure of Bates colliery, South Wales, and has advised its members there to seek transfer or redundancy.

Task Health adds: Production at two South Wales collieries stopped yesterday after a walk-out over allegations that machinery at a coal washery had been sabotaged.

About 500 underground workers walked out at Cwm colliery near Beddau, in mid-Glamorgan, after 120 men had been sent home while management investigated damage to a conveyor belt gear box. A metal nut was apparently put into the machinery.

Men at the adjacent Coedely pit were sent home because the coal they mine is wound up the Cwm shafts. By yesterday afternoon around 1,000 men were involved in the stoppage and Cwm was without safety cover.

The NCB said that the damaged gear box was the latest in a series of irregularities affecting production at Cwm.

Killer loses injury cash to crime victim fund

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

A £25,000 compensation award to a Northern Ireland prisoner has been withdrawn to offset money paid out by the Government to the family of the man he was convicted of murdering.

A judge at Newtownards County Court ruled yesterday that the award to Gary Smyth, a convicted IRA man, made after he lost an eye in a prison accident, should revert to the Northern Ireland Office.

The case, although not unique, is unusual because of the amount of money. It was brought under criminal injuries legislation which enables compensation to crime victims to be recouped from perpetrators' assets.

Last night, Smyth's wife, Donna, said she was disgusted: "We will be appealing until we get what is rightfully ours."

"They are being vindictive. We don't have much of a future, that was our future and the judge has taken it from us."

Smyth, aged 25, was convicted in 1979 of murdering an RUC photographer, Millar McAllister, who was shot dead in Lisburn. Mr McAllister's widow was later awarded £35,000 Government compensation.

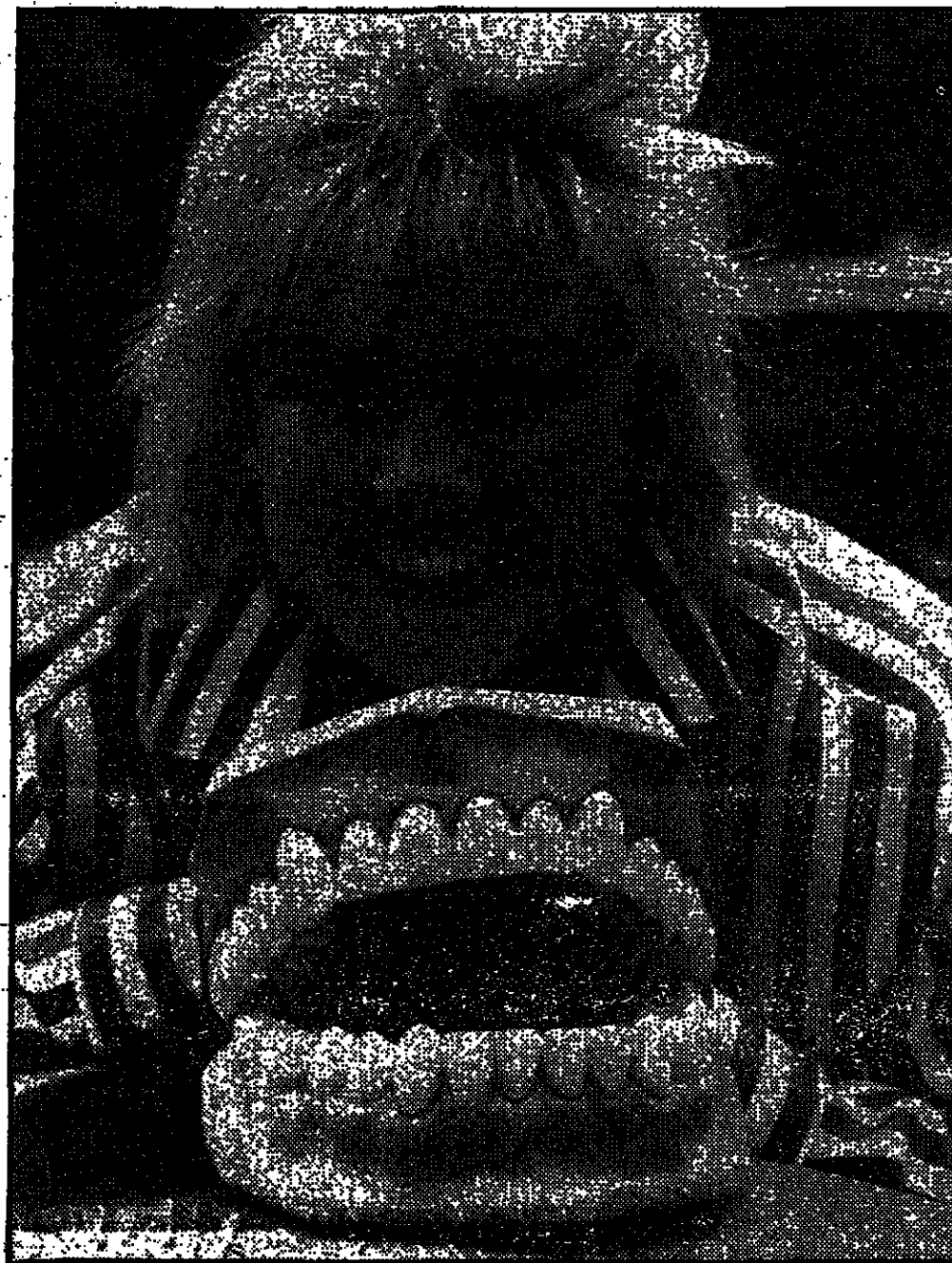
In 1980, while serving a life sentence at the Maze prison, Smyth lost his left eye when a wood splinter from a cutting machine hit him.

The successfully sued the Government for £25,000. That sum was frozen last month when the Northern Ireland Office made legal moves to recover it.

Smyth's counsel yesterday attempted to argue that his part in the murder was peripheral, but Judge Roy Watt ruled that the circumstances of the crime were not a matter for the county court.

Counsel for Smyth said he would come out of prison having lost his youth, penniless and disabled.

In his judgment, Judge Watt said any more compensation to Smyth for his lost eye could also revert to government funds to offset Mrs McAllister's compensation.



All present and correct: Marilyn Cottingham has the perfect row of teeth to put some bite into the British Dental Health Foundation's national smile week, launched in London yesterday. Dentists hope to cut the pain threshold for patients with a touch of humour during the campaign, which starts on Monday

Hailsham doubts on prosecutions law

By Malcolm Dean

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, admitted yesterday that he had doubts about the Government's decision to introduce a national prosecution service next year.

Speaking to the annual conference of the Justices' Clerks' Society in Brighton, he said he thought there were benefits in lawyers alternating between prosecution and defence work. It led to a more balanced style of advocacy and perhaps to a more balanced cast of mind.

However, the counter arguments which had persuaded the Government to implement the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure were also strong, Lord Hailsham said.

There would be more accountability, consistency, and probably efficiency, in the new prosecution service. The prosecution policy and another is to cut the number of unnecessary prosecutions.

Decisions could still be influenced by local circumstances.

Prosecution policy will be devised by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

published a three-volume management study on the structure for the national prosecution service.

Publication was rushed through so that it will be available for MPs on Monday, when the Prosecution of Offences Bill, which sets up the service, is due to receive its third reading in the Commons.

The service will have more than 2,500 staff to handle a million prosecutions a year through 100 offices. It will begin in the six metropolitan areas next April and extend to the rest of the country in the autumn.

All prosecution decisions will be made independently of the police. The service will employ 1,800 lawyers to review the evidence which the police collect. One aim is to introduce a more uniform prosecution policy and another is to cut the number of unnecessary prosecutions.

Gypsies 'facing pass law'

By Michael Parkin

A solicitor claimed yesterday that Bradford was trying to run 23 Gypsies out of town by means of a wide-ranging court injunction. The injunction being sought would stop them entering or remaining on council land or premises, or any other land or premises, without written permission.

Mr Alan Craig, who represented one of the Gypsies in a hearing in chambers before Mr Justice Taylor, said afterwards: "The metropolitan district council has asked for an order that would amount to a pass law to prevent the Gypsies coming into the Bradford area."

"I have never come across a case that has asked for such sweeping powers. It is the equivalent of building a legal fence around Bradford. Where do these Gypsies go? Many have been living in Bradford for 15 to 20 years. The hearing was adjourned to a date to be fixed."

Mr Craig said that usually sought to restrain the 23 travelling people from parking or occupying caravans or any other vehicles in Bradford without permission from the council. They would not be allowed to "defecate, urinate or deposit effluent of any nature on any land except in a properly built and functioning water closet or urinal."

Mr Craig said that usually Gypsies did not contest proceedings to evict them from a particular piece of land. This time eight of the 23 had gone to court, or were represented, to fight the application.

He added: "If this injunction is granted and the Gypsies go back, they would become liable to imprisonment for contempt of court. We have asked the Secretary of State to intervene and to require the council to provide more sites for Gypsies."

Murder remand

Stanley Abel, a 76-year-old retired Pericostal minister, was remanded in custody at Glasgow sheriff court yesterday accused of murdering his wife at their home in Balcarres Avenue, Kelvindale, Glasgow.

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THE FUTURE?

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ITV SUNDAY MAY 12th 12:57 pm

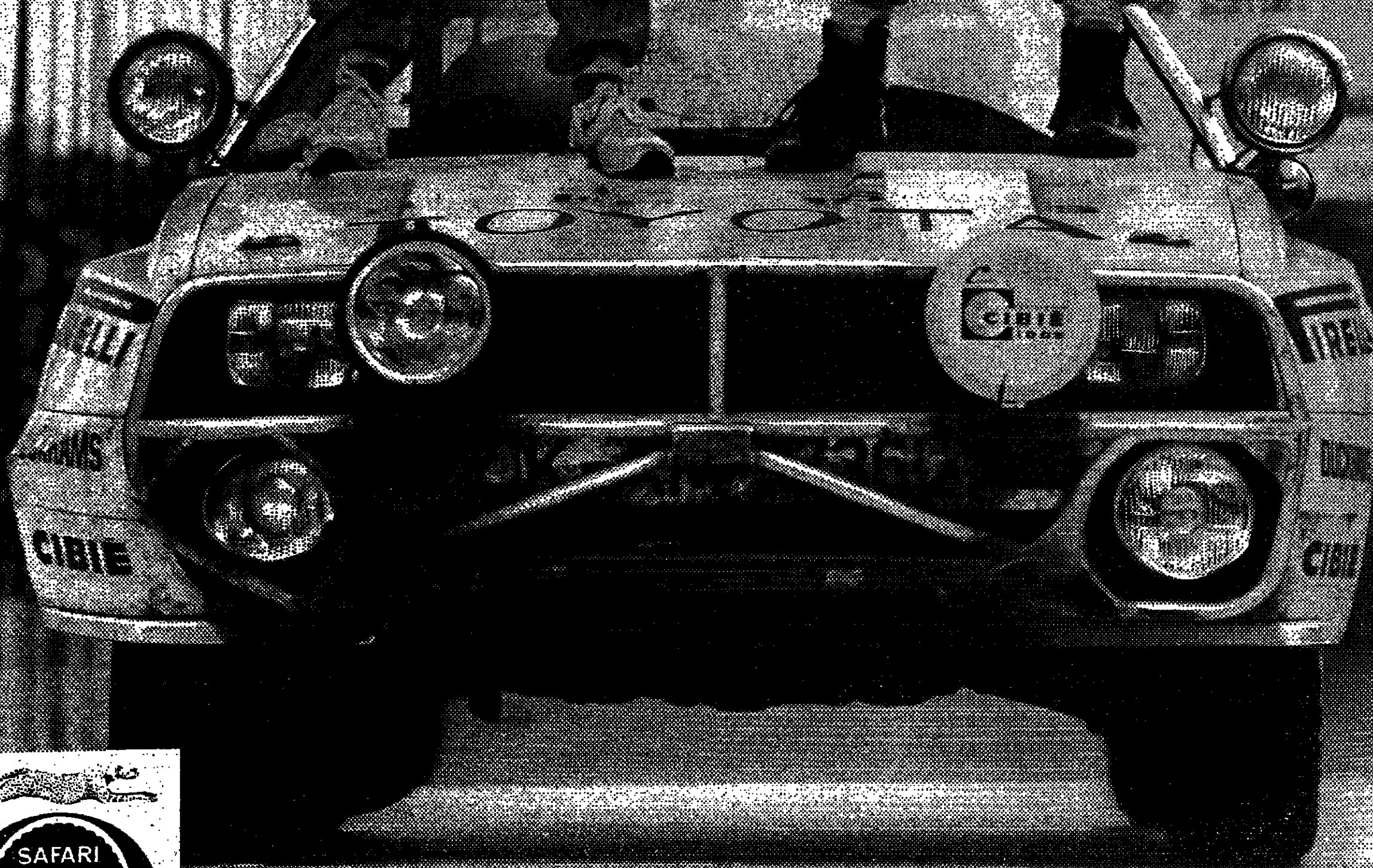
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British TELECOM

TOYOTA WINS AGAIN IN SAFARI RALLY.

SECOND STRAIGHT WIN. CELICAS 1ST AND 2ND.

33rd Marlboro Safari Rally. This is the toughest rally of them all. And for the second year in succession Toyota Celicas leave the rest of the field in their dust. This year only 20 out of 71 starters completed the gruelling 3,250 miles. No car wins this rally without strength, stamina and durability. And a hard working team. Congratulations to driver Juha Kankkunen and co-driver Fred Gallagher, and to last year's winners Björn Waldegård and Hans Thorszelius who came second. Little wonder that the Celica is the world's best selling sports car.



TOYOTA

Bitburg could help attack on SPD stronghold

Ruhr elections will deliver verdict on Kohl's stewardship

From Dan van der Vat in Dortmund

After a barren economic summit and President Reagan's highly controversial state visit, West Germans vote tomorrow in a regional election which is bound to be read as a verdict on the Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, and his Federal Government.

Voters in the largest federal state, North Rhine-Westphalia, who make up nearly a third of the national electorate, will be choosing a new state Parliament just after the half-way mark in Dr Kohl's term of office.

Although lip service is paid to the principle that state elections are about state rather than federal issues, the last stages of the campaign have concentrated on personalities and national issues, with local problems generally in third place.

In their last big advertising push, Dr Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), who form the Opposition in the Düsseldorf state legislature, claimed an unequalled success for the Reagan visit, including Bitburg and Belsen. The theme was: "German-American friendship has proved itself."

The underlying message is that the Social Democrats (SPD), defending an absolute majority in the state, would break the US connection. Since the state legislature has as much say in foreign affairs as the GLC, this is rather like accusing

Mr Ken Livingstone of wanting to take Greater London into the Warsaw Pact.

But the difference is that older voters here do see a link between the future of their state and the standing and security of their country. There are as many who admire Dr Kohl for withstanding the barrage of criticism over the SS graves at Bitburg as think that the entire furore is his fault for suggesting the idea in the first place, and then sticking to it.

Here in the heart of the Ruhr, with its smoke-stacked industries, and associated problems—unemployment and pollution—stands the strongest fortress of the SPD, and no one doubts that it will again emerge as the largest party in the state. With opinion polls predicting an absolute majority again, as in 1980, the party's main concern is to mobilise its vote to the full.

As often happens in West Germany, the fate of the minority parties could determine the result. Neither the Liberal FDP nor the anti-nuclear, environmentalist Greens got the minimum five per cent of the vote needed to enter Parliament five years ago.

The CDU's only hope of taking over from the SPD is that the FDP will surmount this hurdle so that together they can muster enough seats to force the SPD into opposition. The Greens, who have shown

signs nationally of running out of steam, are staking their all on holding the balance of power between the SPD and the CDU—with or without the FDP—so that they can impose their will on the SPD if it fails to get an absolute majority.

Opinion polls offer little guidance here because their margin of error is too large. Either or each, or neither, of the smaller parties could get in; the only certainty is that the credibility and future prospects of both largely depend on doing so.

It is to the SPD's advantage that its state Prime Minister, Mr Johannes Rau, is a much more credible politician than his CDU challenger, Dr Bernhard Worms. If Mr Rau wins again, he could have a bright future in federal politics.

Dr Worms is very much Dr Kohl's man and has been unkindly nicknamed "mini-Kohl" by his critics. To dismiss his chances, however, would be to deny the incontrovertible evidence that the Kohl approach to electioneering is amazingly effective.

Dr Kohl's, the whole political life of Dr Worms has been an endless election campaign in which stamina and stubbornness count for far more than policy and personality. Like Mr Rau, they are the silent majority made flesh. For them, and their supporters, Bitburg and Belsen may be German, but they are not germane.



Reagan ponders on the bridge-building trip that served only to widen the gulf

From Alex Brummer in Washington

PRESIDENT Reagan arrived back on American soil yesterday to some of the most dispiriting reviews of his presidency. The 10-day trip, intended to stress the close bonds of freedom, security and democracy across the Atlantic, was both a policy and a public relations failure. As one senior White House official acknowledged, the President "never scored a home run."

Instead of narrowing differences within the alliance on a range of issues from Central America to economic management, Mr Reagan and his handlers seemed at a stroke to emphasise the gulf across the Atlantic. On this European trip there was no heroic image from the beaches of Norway, no escape to the pub of Ireland or a well received speech to Westminster on the network news.

In contrast, there were awkward scenes from Bitburg, ugly demonstrations in Madrid and hecklers and technical hitches in Strasbourg. While this ragged procession was making its way through Europe, Congress was active taking Mr Reagan's precious budget compromise apart piece by piece until the President was forced, while still in Lisbon, to accept a freeze on military spending.

We are about to have another crippled president, argues Mr Robert Hunter, senior National Security Council official from 1977 to 1981. Mr Hunter, who is now European director of the Centre for International and Strategic Studies at the University of London, was disturbed by Bitburg and puzzled by the President's

centrepiece address at the remains of an even harsher original draft produced by the hawkish White House communications director, Mr Pat Buchanan.

The result, as at Annapolis seven years earlier, was a mixed message. Moscow and a rough response from a European audience who in the spirit of VE-day may well have been moved by some greater gesture of reconciliation to the former wartime ally in the east. It was as if the peace-loving post-election Reagan of January had given way in part to the cold-war warrior of old.

The clashing tones and responses to the Strasbourg address illustrated the difficulty the President had from Bonn to Lisbon in striking themes which would satisfy both domestic and European audiences. The announcement of Nicaraguan economic sanctions while on West German soil is a case in point.

The plain reason for making the announcement while in West Germany was to provide a diversion to blanket coverage of Bitburg in the American press. From the US domestic point of view it worked. Despite some initial reservations from Liberal Democrats, it was supported by the Democratic leadership (which felt duped by Daniel Ortega's trip to the Eastern Bloc) and Republicans.

In his much reworked Strasbourg speech, Mr Reagan appeared to show similar vacillation. The offer to the Kremlin of four practical steps to improve relations, insisted upon by the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the National Security Adviser, Mr Robert McFarlane, was followed by a diplomatic tangle of the Russian system. This section was

to the US in the form of brief television shots left a lingering image of an American president besieged in Europe—adding perhaps to some of the nationalist and isolationist tendencies in the country.

It is the deepening of these isolationist instincts which may prove the most serious consequence of Reagan's trip according to key Senate aides. While the differences over Star Wars may become less relevant as a result of a defence budget freeze, which slows the research programme, Mr Reagan's rough treatment of his continental journey may lead to a revival of efforts by military reform activists to draw down the level of military forces in Europe.

It is certainly clear that the failure to reach a big-seven accord on trade talks together with a continued deterioration in the export sector of the US economy has sharpened the protectionist feeling on Capitol Hill. Senate aides are less concerned about the intramural tensions than the attitude of Japan to the new trade round.

"The Japanese were silent," a Senate foreign relations aide said. "This obviously does not give us a great deal of confidence." It was noted that there are a range of protectionist bills from the 20 per cent import surcharge to new tariff barriers just waiting to go.

In the long-run, few Washington experts expect the "Biblic summit" to have been directly to the damage the President except perhaps among stalwarts in the Jewish community. However, many Washington analysts believe it has changed the attitude of the media and Congress towards Reagan's presidency and this might be of lasting moment.

Time for talking, says Reagan

From Paul Keel and agencies in Lisbon

President Reagan said yesterday it was time that the Soviet Union started talking to each other instead of about each other, and he warned that the US might have to breach the 1979 strategic arms limitation treaty, Salt II.

He told reporters before leaving Lisbon after his West European tour that he did not know if Mr Gorbachev would go to the United Nations session in the autumn. "The word 'probably' might be the best way to describe it," he said.

He added that if the Soviet leader did go, "the door was open for a meeting between us."

He said: "I extended an invitation that the door was open for a meeting between us. And that still goes. So the ball is in his court. First to decide whether he's coming here and then, second, as to time and place for such a meeting, if he is willing."

The two had a lot to talk about, he said.

Mr Reagan said there was considerable evidence that the Soviet Union had not abided by the Salt II treaty with One US which set bomber and missile limits. "If that has been so, there is no need for us to continue," he added.

Weapons developed by the US so far had not violated the treaty, still unratified, but this could happen, he said.

President Reagan, who returned home satisfied rather than triumphant after his 10-day tour, said the trip had strengthened Atlantic ties. The exercise had been long, historic and worthwhile. But he acknowledged that there had been "anguishing" moments.

This was a clear reference to his controversial Bitburg visit in West Germany and his attempt to redress the balance by visiting Belsen.

There were also hostile demonstrations in Spain, over NATO membership in the Philippines and Central American policies.

But in his final comments, the President stressed assurances he had given to European leaders that they could count on the US.

"We are leaving strengthened and we are returning home mission accomplished," he said. "I am leaving strengthened and we are returning home mission accomplished," he said.

Some commentators yesterday dismissed the Reagan tour as a "major blunder" and said his statements on East-West relations during it held out little hope of a speedy improvement of ties with Washington.

"A rapid and sharp turn for the better in international affairs should not be expected," the Soviet Press, the Communist, Nikolai Shishlin, warned.

Divided Church awaits the Pope

From Derek Brown in Amsterdam

The Pope flies into the Netherlands today for the 24th and most difficult foreign visit of his pontificate.

He is assured of a warm welcome from the Dutch Roman Catholic hierarchy. But among the six million Catholic laity—some 40 per cent of the population—the visit has stirred deep controversy.

The Church in the Netherlands is profoundly divided between a vocal liberal wing and the traditionalists, headed by bishops appointed by Rome. Their disputes centre on the role of women in the Church, the ability of the clergy to marry, and the strict interpretation of Catholic dogma on family life, including mixed marriages, contraception, and abortion.

Two events this week have underlined the fundamental rift in the once placid Dutch Church. One was an opinion poll showing a clear majority of Catholics questioning the official line. The other was an impressive rally in The Hague of Catholics opposed, not to the Pope, but to the strict teachings he represents.

Nearly 10,000 people attended the rally, organised by an ad hoc group called PIP (Platform Initiative for the Pope's visit), under the slogan "We are the face of the Church."

Prominent theologians made repeated calls for the Pope to listen, rather than preach, to the Dutch laity. But PIP leaders realise that it is a forlorn hope, and that the Pope, safely surrounded by loyal bishops, is unlikely to hear much of their radical pleading, let alone bend towards them. The opinion poll illustrated the scepticism of Dutch laymen about the visit. It showed that only 11 per cent believed

the visit would bring Catholics closer together. No less than 64 per cent believed it would lead to increased divisions in the Church or leave the present divisions untouched.

The poll, conducted by the Catholic television station here, revealed a less than hearty mood of welcome. Only 53 per cent of Catholics (55 per cent of the population as a whole) said the Pope was welcome, or very welcome, in Holland.

Equally disturbing for loyalists were the poll's findings on Church teaching. Among Catholics, 88 per cent disagree with the official line against contraception, 63 per cent disagree with the ban on women priests, and only 38 per cent agree with the Church on sex outside marriage.

The rebellion of the laity against Church teaching has spread widely among Dutch clergy. No fewer than 2,500 priests have left holy orders in the past few years, mostly to get married.

Only a tiny minority, backed by anarchists and other fringe groups, are planning street protests. Demonstrations are expected today and tomorrow, when the Pope will be in Utrecht.

All police leave has been cancelled, and there is expected to be a tight security cordon around the Pope when he lands at Eindhoven this afternoon.

But widely publicised death threats against the Pope are known to have been the work of black humorists among the large anti-Pope population of Amsterdam, who put up posters offering 15,000 guilders reward to the successful assassin. Four unfortunates have been arrested for posting the notices and accused of conspiracy to murder the friendly head of state. If the charge sticks, which is thought unlikely, they face 15 years' imprisonment.

12 die in pool collapse

USTER, Switzerland: Twelve people, including a child, died when a concrete ceiling crashed on bathers at a swimming pool, the mayor of Uster said yesterday.

Four of the dead were members of the Swiss national junior swimming team, Swiss television reported yesterday. The ceiling collapsed almost in one piece, and covered the pool like a lid. Only the diving board was left by the diving board was there an escape route for the few who struggled to safety.

Most of the victims drowned, but some were crushed to death by the concrete slab weighing about 160 tonnes, the mayor, Mr Walter Flach, told a news conference.

Some 350 rescuers worked through the night, breaking through the concrete with drills and pumping out water. Mr Flach said that no survivors were found beneath the fallen ceiling.

Mr Ernst Wädenswiler, who led the construction of the pool in 1971, said that the chrome-plated steel alloy supports carrying the two square yard ceiling had rusted.

"I cannot explain that. It should not happen," he told the news conference.

Barbie 'not troubled'

LYONS: The accused Nazi war criminal, Klaus Barbie, appears to have a clear conscience regarding his activities as Gestapo chief in Lyons, reports published yesterday.

Barbie, aged 71, known as the "Butcher of Lyons," is awaiting trial on charges of deporting hundreds of people to death camps.

"Every time he encounters someone who could create internal conflict, Barbie refers himself to an imaginary authority—that is one of the reasons why Nazi ideology worked so well for him," the report says—Reuters.

Threat of strike in Honduras

From Paul Glickman in Tegucigalpa

Honduras is threatened with a general strike after three weeks of Labour-sponsored talks aimed at resolving the country's constitutional crisis ended in failure early on Friday morning.

After a 15-hour negotiating session with the warring political groups, including a half-dozen abducted in the past two weeks. Also since January, the army calculated, 32 towns have been sacked or burned by guerrillas, mostly in rural areas of longstanding guerrilla strength in the eastern provinces of La Unión, San Miguel, Morazan, and Usulután.

Guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front, the rebel umbrella organisation, have frequently taken over small town halls and destroyed government installations or records in their five-year-old war. But the Salvadoran army and diplomatic sources described the capture and killing of mayors as a departure for the movement, which has traditionally sought to gain the broadest possible support among the populace.

On Wednesday, Dr Janis Gallitis, eminent physician to the super-rich of nearby Newport—where lies the Von Bulow country mansion—had revealed in the jury's absence that he had been very unhappy with the way the original prosecutors had stage managed his evidence in 1982, to the exclusion of his belief that Mrs Von Bulow's

Salvador guerrillas turn on villagers

From Edward Cody in San Salvador

Leftwing guerrilla forces, in the face of a deteriorating military position, have sharply increased attacks on civilian authorities in small towns and villages of eastern El Salvador, the Government said.

The Salvadoran army reported that 10 mayors had been kidnapped and two killed by insurgents since the beginning of the year, including a half-dozen abducted in the past two weeks. Also since January, the army calculated, 32 towns have been sacked or burned by guerrillas, mostly in rural areas of longstanding guerrilla strength in the eastern provinces of La Unión, San Miguel, Morazan, and Usulután.

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first coma was induced by choking on her own vomit, not by insulin.

The past two days saw the former prosecuting lawyers and investigating detectives justifying their conduct and their notes of three years ago in the witness box.

In both trials there have been gentle overtones of class to heighten the tension between the best lawyers money can buy and state prosecutors, this time led by a 29-year-old, Mr Mark Desisto.

With the jury still waiting at their hotel Judge Grande, a neat 55-year-old spinster who wears glasses with red rims, yesterday exonerated the lawyers of "rather sinister sounding" accusations and called the jury back for what looks like the long haul.

Callers to local radio chat shows have expressed differing views on Mr Von Bulow's

Million homeless in floods

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

A MILLION people are now homeless because of floods that have devastated Brazil's drought-prone north-east region. Another 20,000 lost their homes when a dam burst near Salvador in the state of Bahia. Alerted by cracks in the dam wall, civil defence teams just had time to remove the population before the disaster.

The floods have been caused by exceptionally heavy rainfall in the area, where it has been raining for nearly two months.

The slow rise of the water has usually allowed the population to escape in time, but some have been drowned in overturned boats or in shacks swept away by mudslides.

Helicopters of the air force and hydro electric companies have rescued hundreds of people trapped on rooftops. One pilot, Antonio Dias Neto, told of rescuing a mother holding her newborn twins above her head to keep them out of the water.

In private, Mrs Reynolds, who was not around last time, has become his most spirited advocate. The defence is apparently determined to win the medical arguments this time—and to spend what it takes.

The sub-plot is the relocation of the trial in Providence, up the estuary from nautical Newport, which has also lost some off-season tourism. A local politician who just happened to be chairman of the Newport Tourist Board tried to legislate to get it back, and harsh words have been exchanged between the two towns.

One of Newport's losses is the sight of Mr Von Bulow keeping his spirits up by putting a napkin and ashtray on his head and giving a reportedly excellent imitation of Queen Victoria.

Soviet bloc pledges aid for Ortega

East Berlin: President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua said at the end of an East German tour yesterday that the new US trade sanctions would seriously affect his country's economy, but that Soviet bloc states had promised economic help.

His statement came after the US House of Representatives Intelligence Committee rejected President Reagan's request for \$25 million in military aid for Nicaragua's rebels, during it held out little hope of a speedy improvement of ties with Washington.

"A rapid and sharp turn for the better in international affairs should not be expected," the Soviet Press, the Communist, Nikolai Shishlin, warned.

Mr Ortega said that no political conditions had been attached to the aid.

In all the Warsaw Pact countries I have visited, there was a great readiness to help Nicaragua meet these problems, but we are not expecting abundance and a solution to all our problems from this," he added. He declined to give details of the aid.

Mr Ortega described the sanctions as an extension of President Reagan's policy of terror against the Nicaraguan revolution.—Reuters.

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Christian rebels go over to Syria

From David Hirst in Beirut

After a patch within a patch, rebel Christian militiamen, for years the friends and allies of Israel, have now gone over to the Syrian camp.

Two months after Dr. Samir Geagea led his Lebanese Forces militia in their "uprising" against President Gemayel, he has been replaced as leader by Elie Hobeika, his chief of security, with a ringing declaration of support for the policies which he had repudiated. Hobeika commanded the force which massacred Palestinian at the camps of Sabra and Chatila, in September 1982.

Several days of deepening confusion in the Maronite camp came to a head on Thursday evening, when it was announced that the 10-man "executive committee" of the Lebanese Forces had unanimously elected the 27-year-old Hobeika as their president until September.

Dr. Geagea, who cast one of the votes, is to remain chief of staff, but that he has been supplanted as effective strongman there can be little doubt.

In the policy statement that followed, the new leadership declared that it was now inevitable that Lebanon would "return to the Arab fold." It called on the Arabs, and especially "sister Syria," to work for Lebanon's salvation.

If 10 years of civil war had obliged some to look to regional quarters (Israel) hostile to the Arabs, this had only been in self-defence. It called for "agreement among all Lebanese on a new formula for (national) entente." It had been precisely to stem Syria's growing role in Lebanese affairs that Dr. Geagea had launched his rebellion. Syria, he had said, "cannot solve the Lebanese crisis." As for entente, he scorned entente: "The political language of the Middle East is violence."

Such a policy of force, applied at a time when the Israeli withdrawal was shifting the whole balance of power against the Christian militiamen, merely led to more military defeats. And the new Christian refugees from the Sidon hills and the Idlib al-Kharoub did not hesitate to blame their leaders. Attempts to mobilise Western opinion on the refugees' behalf achieved little: never had the Christians felt so alone in the world.

The Lebanese Forces fell back to their last redoubts, the Maronite heartlands north of Beirut. With the generalised heavy fighting in the capital, these were coming under assault.

These grim circumstances produced the turnaround Elie Hobeika is hardly out for the peace-maker's role. One of Israel's men for peace has had many unsavoury exploits to his name.

However, whereas his former chief, Dr. Geagea, imbued with exalted notions of saving Lebanon from the sword, is uncompromising by nature, Hobeika is described by those who know him as a more man of violence quite unencumbered by such ideals, as the ultimate Levantine pragmatist who can be in Tel Aviv one day and Damascus the next.

He has long fostered contacts with President Assad's brother, Rifaat, very much a man of his own stamp. His loyalty to the Geagea, "uprising" was always in doubt, in view of his close relations with President Gemayel.

There is perhaps no one better suited than Hobeika to swing his own apparatus, the Lebanese Forces, behind a policy of compromise after 16 years of the opposite. For everyone, including Dr. Geagea, is said to fear him.

But this will not be the last upheaval in the Maronite camp. Men like him, said a Maronite politician, "know that the game is almost up. They are trying to secure some recognised place in the coming Lebanese settlement before it is too late."

But it can only be a reduced place. They are rapidly discrediting themselves, others are bound to step forward.

Stop work call to unionists after deaths in police custody

SA student leader died after brain haemorrhage

From Patrick Lawrence in Johannesburg

Outrage at the death of two black leaders after their arrest by police was fuelled yesterday by the announcement that the student leader, like the trade unionist, suffered severe brain haemorrhage before death.

Lawyers acting for Mr Sipho Muti, who was a branch organiser of the South African Congress of Students in the Free State, made the disclosure in a statement yesterday. It was based on the report of an independent pathologist who attended the post-mortem examination on Mr Muti on Thursday.

Even before the pathologist's finding was made public, black trade unions and community organisations called on workers to down tools for two hours next Tuesday as tribute to Mr Muti.

Mr Muti was arrested on Thursday at a local police station. He was admitted to hospital first in Welkom and then in Bloemfontein. He was certified dead on arrival at Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein, a hospital spokesman said.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, yesterday ordered an inquiry into Mr Muti's death by a senior police officer. Earlier, the Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, ordered a similar departmental inquiry into Mr Raditsela's death.

The Cape Times yesterday called for an independent judicial inquiry into the deaths of both Mr Raditsela and Mr Muti.

Tamils raze police post in mortar raid

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

At least five policemen were killed yesterday in a fierce attack on a police station in the north-western coastal town of Mannar, which lasted for three hours, was reported to have been well-coordinated and professionally carried out by the guerrillas, thought to belong to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Police said the rebels preceded the attack by knocking out the area's communications and blowing up a causeway between the island and the mainland to hold up reinforcements.

The guerrilla force went off with all the arms and ammunition in the station.

Troops with air cover moved yesterday morning into Mannar, which was reported calm after the attack. Roadblocks were erected at strategic points.

Helicopters flew over the town ferrying troops and supplies.

Meanwhile, Krishnan Anand, an Indian journalist who was arrested and charged with disturbing a speech made by President Jayewardene, was freed on bail yesterday. His trial under the island's emergency regulations was put off until May 24.

An important meeting of South Asian countries opened in Bhutan yesterday with Sri Lanka, which has been at war of words with India, absent. Sri Lanka is reviewing its membership of the seven-member South Asian Regional Cooperation group.

Strategic trip to Noumea

Noumea: The French Defence Minister, Mr Charles Hernu, made a symbolic arrival in the French overseas territory of New Caledonia yesterday, to begin a two-day visit to New Caledonia. The visit was aimed at defining measures to reinforce France's strategic military presence in the Pacific, he said.

He boarded the submarine of the New Caledonia coast, flying to it by helicopter after arriving on the island by air.

The minister chose to make his official landing in New Caledonia by submarine to emphasise the military significance of the visit. — Reuters.

Ghana extends a cool welcome

From Jonathan Randal in Accra

UNLIKE two years ago, when an estimated million illegal Ghanaian residents were summarily expelled from Nigeria, this time no cheering crowds or helping government hands await those deported.

With the Nigerian deadline theoretically expiring today, and only a relative handful of expelled Ghanaians back home, the Government here is showing none of the sympathy it extended then.

In Lagos, the Interior Minister, Major-General Mohammed Magoro, said that the Government did not intend to extend the deadline, but indicated that no force would be used against those who failed to leave by today, the Associated Press reported.

"Then it was like Dunkirk," remarked an English resident. "It was spontaneous, with private people driving down to pick up the deported at the border."

The radical change of heart is apparently due to the widespread feeling that those expelled in 1983 knew full well they risked further deportation when they returned to Nigeria illegally.

This time, in a country courageously trying to dig itself out of a gigantic financial problem, many traditionally low-key Ghanaians feel those returning from Nigeria had left to avoid the strict austerity measures in force here.

"We're just a bit angry with those who are forever running after the end of the rainbow," a government employee remarked. So, too, is the Government itself.

The National Mobilisation Committee, which smoothly dealt with the 1983 influx, is this time making the returning Ghanaians pay for services rendered. If those expelled cannot

pay their transport costs, their relatives are being asked to do so. Similarly, this time those arriving from Nigeria are required to pay normal customs duties on the goods they bring with them.

So far the Nigerians have either exaggerated the numbers of illegal residents, with Ghanaians said to account for 300,000 of the 700,000 asked to leave, or many have gone into hiding.

In any case, even counting the 5,000 Ghanaians said to be stranded between Nigeria and Benin to the west, to date fewer than 10,000 Ghanaians are reported to have returned along the 20-mile coastal highway separating the Nigerian border and the capital.

They represent the overwhelming majority of those leaving, since only a relative handful have returned by air or sea, or are believed taking

other, more arduous, land routes.

The Government apparently wants to maintain a low profile, with no publicity or public appeals for outside help. In 1983, the Government of Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings appealed for help to the international community, which responded with food shipments.

"The expulsions were a blessing in disguise," a Ghanaian relief worker recalled. "We were in the midst of a serious drought and no one on the outside paid us any mind until those who had been feeding fat in Nigeria showed up. Then the whole world community came to our aid."

Then, as now, the authorities moved efficiently to disperse the returning Ghanaians to their home villages throughout the country to avoid swelling the towns and cities with potential troublemakers. — Washington Post.

American sources indicated earlier this week that, talking to PNC members might be a way of getting round the refusal of both Washington and Jerusalem to deal directly with the PLO. Mr Shamir appears to have scotched that idea, although it was unlikely that it would have been acceptable to the PLO anyway.

Student threat MORE THAN 100 student anarchists yesterday threatened to blow up the occupied chemistry school at Athens university if 24 colleagues arrested during 14 hours of clashes with police in the centre of the capital were not released. The clashes began after the anarchists were banned from marching in protest against "the authority of the law and the fascist police." — AP.

Official gaoled THE MOST senior government official he charged under Hong Kong's bribery laws was gaoled yesterday for six years. Mok Wei-tak, aged 47, former acting director of the Building Development Department, was found guilty of maintaining a standard of living out of line with his official income. — Reuters.

Mengele search ISRAELI, West German and US law enforcement officials have been meeting in Frankfurt to coordinate their pursuit of the Nazi war criminal, Josef Mengele, the US Attorney-General, Mr Edwin Meese, said in Washington yesterday. The officials "discussed ways to reinforce and maximise the efforts being made to bring Mengele to justice," he said. — AP.

PLO man cleared A YOUNG Palestinian was cleared yesterday of murdering a leading PLO moderate in Portugal in 1983, but was found guilty of entering the country with a false passport. Youssef Al-Awad had previously been tried and acquitted, but the Supreme Court annulled that verdict. — Reuters.

Room at inns STREET CRIME and a bomb campaign by Basque separatist guerrillas have been blamed by Spanish hoteliers for a 12 to 15 per cent decline in holiday bookings this year. The Basque Federation leader met the Interior Minister, Mr Jose Barriocano, last night to discuss security. — Reuters.

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Aid may be cut THE European Parliament has recommended cutting nearly £15.5 million from the European Commission's financial aid to Turkey because the country "persistently flouts democracy and human rights." — AP.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shultz makes no progress

THE US Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, met Israeli leaders yesterday to discuss proposals about holding Middle East peace negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, writes Ian Black in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, told Mr Shultz that Israel was resolutely opposed to negotiations with members of the Palestine National Council, the "parliament" of the PLO.

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Lagos misses expulsion deadline

Lagos: Several hundred Ghanaians blocked streets around Nigeria's immigration headquarters trying to get their papers in order. The element of fear as far as this exercise is concerned is not there.

Departures have been slow, because the authorities are checking departing immigrants strictly so that they do not take more than the equivalent of \$22 in Nigerian currency out of the country. Essential commodities may not be taken, either.

Neighbouring countries operate their border-crossing points only in daylight hours, and thousands of people have had to wait near the borders, standing in the open and being drenched by downpours that started on Tuesday, when the rainy season began.

In January, 1983, the then-Chadian Government ordered foreigners out, and estimated two million departed in scenes that were often violent and chaotic. The present Government, which took power at the end of 1983, has conferred with envoys of its neighbouring countries over the expulsion, in order to avoid damaging regional relations.

Many of the immigrants were attracted to Nigeria by its oil wealth, and others were fleeing drought and starvation in the sub-Saharan countries north and east of Nigeria. — AP.

£2m a day for drought relief

From George Armstrong in Rome

A FORMER economics professor has been given the job, by the Italian Government, of spending nearly £2 million a day on famine relief for Africa and other Third World aid projects.

Mr Francesco Forte has resigned as Minister for EEC planning to administer the Italian aid budget of nearly £800 million which is to be spent by September 29 next year.

The 57-year-old Socialist MP, who is attached to the Foreign Ministry, will have what appears to be complete autonomy of action and the power to summon assistance from other ministries. He claims that with the other contributions made by Italy, his country now supplies the Third World with one-third of its emergency aid as much as the rest of Europe together.

Mr Forte is to leave next week for Africa "where 30 million people risk dying of hunger."

The agency is helping the Government rebuild the camp in the northern province of Gondar.

Messengers have been sent into the hills surrounding the camp to tell the tens of thousands who took refuge there that it is all right to return. Inet was the largest relief camp in Ethiopia, housing about 58,000 people.

Since the burning of the camp two weeks ago, Inet has been inundated with returning

giving them the option of getting their papers in order. The element of fear as far as this exercise is concerned is not there.

Departures have been slow, because the authorities are checking departing immigrants strictly so that they do not take more than the equivalent of \$22 in Nigerian currency out of the country. Essential commodities may not be taken, either.

Neighbouring countries operate their border-crossing points only in daylight hours, and thousands of people have had to wait near the borders, standing in the open and being drenched by downpours that started on Tuesday, when the rainy season began.

In January, 1983, the then-Chadian Government ordered foreigners out, and estimated two million departed in scenes that were often violent and chaotic. The present Government, which took power at the end of 1983, has conferred with envoys of its neighbouring countries over the expulsion, in order to avoid damaging regional relations.

Many of the immigrants were attracted to Nigeria by its oil wealth, and others were fleeing drought and starvation in the sub-Saharan countries north and east of Nigeria. — AP.

Ethiopia appeals for world seed airlift to halt aid cycle

Addis Ababa: Ethiopia appealed yesterday for an international airlift of seeds and tools to help up to 10 million famine victims in the country to reduce their reliance on food aid and to plant their own crops before the rainy season starts next month.

The appeal was made as Dr Tony Atkins, director of the US relief agency World Vision reported that more than 35,000 famine victims have walked back over the past three days to Inet, the famine relief camp that the Government has reopened after it was burned and evacuated by troops.

He said: "We are not prepared to deal with what is happening."

The agency is helping the Government rebuild the camp in the northern province of Gondar.

Messengers have been sent into the hills surrounding the camp to tell the tens of thousands who took refuge there that it is all right to return. Inet was the largest relief camp in Ethiopia, housing about 58,000 people.

Since the burning of the camp two weeks ago, Inet has been inundated with returning

people, many of them suffering from exposure and respiratory infections after sleeping outside without warm clothing or shelter for more than a week in the cold, wet highlands.

The seed airlift appeal was made by the Government's top aid administrator, Mr Dawit Wolde Giorgis, of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. He told a news conference that Ethiopia needed 130,000 tonnes of seed to break out of "the vicious cycle of food aid dependence."

Peasants now living on food handouts had been unable to take advantage of the present short rainy season to plant food because of inadequate seeds and tools.

He appealed to the world to match the "extremely generous" airlift of emergency food supplies which began arriving last October with a new airlift of aid for peasant farmers, who form the bulk of people now living at relief centres.

The appeal followed a controversy over the dispersal of famine victims from Inet. Mr Dawit said last week that the refugees left voluntarily to plant during the rains.

Big French N-blast triggers protests

Wellington: France exploded a huge nuclear weapon at its South Pacific testing site on Mururoa Atoll yesterday, prompting angry protests from New Zealand and Australia.

New Zealand believes the blast was the biggest since France began underground testing in the Pacific 10 years ago. It called the explosion deplorable.

The Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said: "All the countries of the South Pacific are absolutely opposed to nuclear testing in their region and have said so on many occasions."

Australia, also vocal in its opposition to the French tests, said there was no justification for continuing nuclear testing on the atoll, near Tahiti. Its acting Foreign Minister, Mr Gareth Evans, said that if France insisted on conducting

these tests, "it should do so in metropolitan France."

The explosion was big enough to register on seismographs in New Zealand, about 4,500 miles away. Measured by scientists at 150 kilotons the equivalent of 150,000 tonnes of TNT, it surpassed the previous biggest French test of 140 kt recorded in 1979.

"It is certainly a big explosion — a weapon rather than a trigger device," a seismologist, Mr Murray Lowry, said.

Meanwhile, France categorically denied reports saying that Algerian prisoners during the Algerian war were used as human guinea pigs for France's first nuclear test in 1960 in the Sahara. An Algerian television documentary alleged that French officials fed 150 Algerian captives to stakes a few miles from the test site to analyse the biological effect of radio-activity. — Reuters.

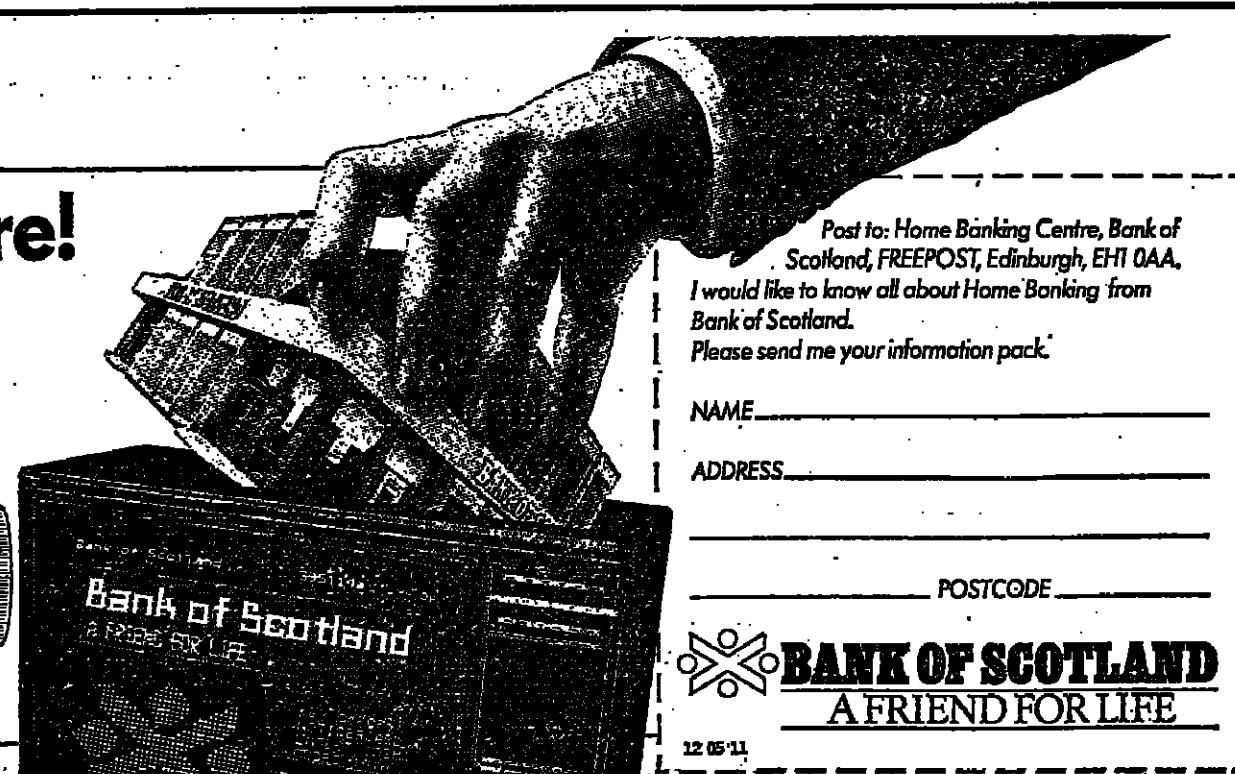
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Chief Ngabwe



Crossing the Luswishi River by dugout.



A narrow bush track in Chief Ngabwe's area

Against all good advice, Brian Moss took a pushbike into the Zambian bush, where, 17 years earlier, he had been a teacher

White man on a bicycle, making tracks

LIKE MANY hundreds of other young teachers, I went to newly independent Zambia in the late sixties in search of adventure and the deposit to buy a house when I got back to England. After three reasonably productive years I returned to complete my studies of the game parks and Victoria Falls, but with a feeling that I had never seen the "Real Africa" deep in the bush.

In Zambia's 20th year of independence I decided to fill the gap in my education. With £400 in my pocket and a return ticket to Lusaka bought from a bucket shop, I packed my bicycle and set off for Heathrow on the first day of the summer holidays.

Officials at Lusaka Airport were far too amused to subject me to anything more than the briefest of formalities. They did make a point of advising me never to travel after dark for fear of armed robbers, although I believe that it is cars they seek, not pushbikes.

It took three days to reach Lusaka, the Copperbelt town where I once lived. It came as a surprise when

visiting my former school to find some of my 17-year-old visual aids still decorating the walls of the geography room. Old European friends thought my journey to be of dubious wisdom. African friends, including ex-pupils, told me I was downright crazy.

I had never cycled on a dirt road before and with 24 kilos of luggage, plus my own weight, it took a little time to acquire the art. After 40 dusty miles I reached Mpongwe, a Swedish mission, where a kindly nurse arranged to have me washed, fed and put up for the night. On the following day I crossed the Kafue River on a pontoon and met Chief Machiya. Like most Africans he could not understand why I should want to make such a journey but nevertheless gave me plenty of help and advice.

Although English is the official language I came upon many villages where nobody spoke other than their native tongue. "Muzungu nchinge" (white man on a bicycle), shouted the children at every village. Indeed, several parents told me that their

younger children were seeing a white man for the first time. Language was never a problem; the expression on my face usually indicated my needs and I was usually given a stool in a shady spot while bananas and maize beer were brought to me.

Before the journey I had spent nearly a day in Edward Stanford's London map shop. Doubtless the maps were accurate when printed 20 years ago, but with slash-and-burn agriculture, villages relocate when soils are exhausted, and the roads and tracks move with them.

Everyone had predicted that my journey would end at Luswishi River, since the road ended there. However, villagers told me of tracks beyond the river. My problem was crossing the river, which had no bridge and was populated with crocodiles and hippos. Eventually the bike was loaded on to a dugout canoe and across we went. The area appeared devoid of people but I assumed that the track had to lead somewhere or it would not exist. It was many miles before I came to several villages, deserted

apparently when the wells had run dry.

There were no water supply problems for Chief Ngabwe, who had a large wind pump to draw water for his five wives and numerous children. He spoke good English and told me that further travels were possible although the track would become very narrow and there was danger of meeting elephant and buffalo. He omitted to mention tsetse fly.

Even when I left a forest for a plain I still had no idea where I was, with the grass almost twice my own height. I had to dodge poachers' animal traps and was constantly disorienting myself from the wheels and gears. I saw enough wild animals but none which were a danger to man. With only minutes before the onset of darkness I reached the Kafue River again, where a fisherman on the opposite bank heard my shouts and came with his boat to rescue me.

Villagers gave me shelter and food but it was not until I had told them everything about Chief Ngabwe, from the number of his wives to the

colour of his windmill, that they felt able to believe that I had indeed made the journey on a cycle.

The further south I went, the more sand became a problem; it seemed a struggle even to overtake pedestrians at times. I carried a tent but never pitched it once, in five weeks. I never lacked for a mud hut and a few animals skins on which to unroll my sleeping bag. Meals always consisted of *Nshima*, a porridge made from maize. This resembles but, alas, does not taste like, mashed potato. Meat depended on what the hunters had caught; frequently it was from a kudu. My hosts often apologised for not being able to provide knives and forks.

In Southern Province I rejoined a tar road and covered the 120 miles from Choma to Livingstone in one day. After three years of inadequate rains the Victoria Falls were less spectacular than when I had last seen them. The Eastern Cataract on the Zambian side was dry for most of its width. You still needed waterproofs to view the Zimbabwe side.

Having spent most of the journey hoping not to meet wild animals I was reluctant to return home without a few elephant photographs. The Chobe Swamp of North Botswana was only a day's ride from Livingstone so I made it my furthest point West. The immigration officers explained that I would not be wise to cycle through an area so full of game so I booked in at the safari lodge in Kasane and hired a boat and guide. It was not cheap but the game viewing was so good that the unit cost per elephant photograph was extremely low.

The return to Lusaka was on tarred roads which compensated for the prevailing headwind. In 1,500 miles I had only five punctures although I wore out one set of tyres and reshaped the rims somewhat. The bike is a standard Raleigh bought secondhand from a local paper boy. Apart from a larger range of gears, it is fitted with heavy gauge stainless steel spokes which do seem to be unbreakable. My handlebars are straight rather than dropped; I prefer looking at the scenery, not the front wheel.

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WEEK-END ARTS

Gavin Lyall's new thriller is an exciting tale of the CIA's response to a neutral Britain. He talked to Hugh Hebert about the facts behind his fiction

Maxim's of power

HE answered the question before I had finished asking it, which should have made me suspicious. It was the old McCarthy question, are you or have you ever been connected with MI5, and the answer was No. But I believed him anyway.

Gavin Lyall's new thriller, *The Crocus List*, out on Monday is the third of his Harry Maxim novels, about a group of sleepers left in place in Britain by the CIA, ready to be woken by Washington if it looks as though Albion's about to go perdition and turn into a neutral. When it happens in banana republics they call it de-stabilisation; and you wouldn't want that to happen, would you?

Later I was less sure I should have believed him, because he said: "Whether the CIA did set up destabilisation groups I don't know. But there was an element in the CIA that wanted to—that I have established. And you've seen some elements of destabilisation in Italy and so on. Whether they reached out to Britain I don't know. The branch was there. I've invented the twigs."

The first novel about Major Harry Maxim, *The Secret Servant*, had the ex-SAS officer posted to Number 10 as military adviser on security, and soon detailed to watch the back of a lecherous professor who happened to be crucial to the British strategic negotiations with the Europeans.

The second book, *The Conduct Of Major Maxim*, was an even more complex web of duplicities and tough-guy heroics, involving East Germany, the rivalries between MI5 and MI6, and the geography of Google doodles. Maxim, in fact, took Gavin Lyall into new fictional fiefdoms. His early novels, starting in the sixties with *The Wrong Side Of The Sky*, were often about pilots who worked for small crumbly air transport outfits, flying shaky aircraft on jobs that

turned out to be shakier still.

Lyall had done his flying during his National Service. It was, he said, the RAF that decided him against becoming a Great Novelist. "It persuaded me that the world was a practical place. Where things like fuel gauges were important. It knocked a lot of the pretensions out of me." It knocked quite a few of his friends out of the sky. They lost about one pilot in ten on the jet conversion course, where they left behind the propellers and tried to get used to the Meteor. It was the early Fifties.

By the time he came out of the RAF and went to Cambridge, he had decided that the world was a practical place indeed. He would be a journalist, and if he wrote books they would be thrillers.

But it was a while before he actually wrote one. He was on Picture Post for the last year of his life, where he worked with photographers like Bert Hardy and sat next to Katharine Whitehorn. He has been married to her ever since, and their elder son, dashed like an arrow, is ready to photograph a fire as soon as we arrived at their house. A lad with blood in his ink.

Lyall moved on to the BBC, then to the Sunday Times. When Whitehorn went to the rival Observer, they offered him a job too, "because you're a non-bastard." Which turned his stomach somewhat; he opted to stay at the Sunday Times, where there were plenty of bastards.

It all relates doesn't it? It's about talking to people, finding things out. In the books I want to know I've got the basic foundations right, and then I can improvise. But he is now improvising in a different way. The Maxim books came out of a television project that fell through. His novels before



A model for Maxim: Gavin Lyall and the tank he's invented for Maxim Four. Picture by Martin Argles

that had all been about maverick figures, but the Maxim books are centred on conformists at the core of the establishment. Where he always wrote in the first person, he has now switched to the third, and that he found was hell.

Those early heroes were recognisably in the English tradition of thrillers. Lyall was heavily influenced by Hammett and Chandler while he was trying with thrillers at university, and their style is imprinted on his first books. But those West Coast private eyes are involved professionally in whatever trouble clonks them on the head or shoots them in mean streets.

Your British thriller hero was something else, a professional at his job, but his job was not sleuthing for 10 bucks, plus expenses. They got into their scrapes by accident, or because of some perfectly honourable desire to help in a situation that their real job might or might not have landed them in—as in *The Riddle Of*

The Sands, Ambler, John Buchan.

But you had to admire those amateur heroes, if only because no one was paying them. It is less easy to admire a professional who is a trained thus but happens to be SAS. It becomes more difficult still as governments come to rely more on grabbing intelligence out of the sky than from dead letter drops.

So does Lyall admire Maxim? George Harbinger, his immediate boss? Agnes, the MI5 co-ordinator? "I admire them all within their limitations. They are trying to do what they agreed to do in the first place. Agnes talks about 'loyalty beyond disillusion.' She says there's a lot wrong with what I signed up to support, but it's better than what I signed up to oppose."

Lyall turned 53 this week. By the time he came to write the first Maxim book, several of the people he had known in university days had been through some of the choicer places of White-

hall, including Number 10. And when he had decided the broad outline of Maxim's role, he went to the MoD public relations office and asked them to provide a background for him.

"And did he also put questions to MI5?" Not through their letter box. But, yes, I did ask questions. And did he get answers? "There are always answers, of a sort."

"It's more a matter of attitudes you look for. A journalist may go to the Geneva conference, and he will want to know what happened in the conference room. I want to know what the room is like, how things are organised, how the cars draw up, how the Americans behave, how the Russians behave. The moment the journalist gets really interested is the moment I go home for a drink."

"Because I've got the guts of the story, what actually happens in the conference room—I've invented it. OK, so it's invented out of years of cutting stories out of

papers, reading political memoirs—both invented."

For what he calls Maxim Four he has invented also the new British main battle tank, whose details the bodies desperately want. He has done more than that, he has built a scale model.

He has very enjoyable correspondences with experts. He thinks they enjoy it too. When I asked if he felt he had ever been used, he paused. Then he conceded that some information he was given about Lloyd's of London now, after various revelations, looks as though it was less than frank. But he didn't use it anyway. But had anyone phoned about Maxim and whispered, "I wish you hadn't said that?"

"No—not yet. Bit disappointed, really."

The Crocus List will be published on Monday by Hodder & Stoughton (£8.95). *The Secret Servant*, *The Conduct Of Major Maxim*, and most of Lyall's earlier novels are available in paperback from Pan.

Bell, book and candle

Nancy Banks-Smith investigates The Detective on BBC

TOM BELL came into the room like a draught. His daughter's fiancé, expressing a polite interest in his hobby of genealogy, asked where he dug up all his ancestors. "Graveyards," said Bell gravely.

He is seldom, one suspects, mistaken for Old King Cole. Friends only infrequently slip him on the back and say "give us a comic song. You'd be looking at a sunbeam" a little time before the thought of Tom Bell, which is why I walk warily as if it might be mined around the information, stated in an actors' directory, that his hobby is growing sunflowers.

He has the habit of saying nothing so that everyone listens and of looking alone in a crowd. Indeed, it doesn't remain a crowd for long as people are apt to look at their watches and say, "Good lord, is that the time..." Like those fishes which live at excessive depths he appears to be two profiles stuck together and you rather expect him to have two eyes on one side. He is, in fact, described in *The Detective* as "A cold fish but dedicated to

the point of inhumanity."

This fine facility for putting the wind up people is remarkably effective in lone wolf, underworld serial Out. Unusually in *The Detective*, he plays a policeman, Commander Crocker, a man of indefinable principle and unshakeable integrity. Upright, just, and—naturally—almost universally disliked.

In an opening episode he reports his brother-in-law for a breach of the peace and threatens to report his future son-in-law for smoking cannabis and his best friend for sleeping on the job, so to speak. This causes a good deal of family friction, raised voices, banging doors and cries of "Don't expect me to come to the wedding!" while Crocker calmly continues composing a genealogical piece called *The Crockers: An Ordinary Family As Judging from the uproar, they are.*

I have been putting off the moment when I must admit that I have a rather poor memory for faces. I once greeted a faintly familiar face with extravagant enthusiasm. "How lovely to see you again."

"When are you coming to dinner?" "Shut up," it said. "I'm your dentist."

Crocker has been conducting surveillance on a trades union leader, whom the government hope to get for subversive activities or, failing that, double parking. When the suspect, shadowed from a brothel for underage girls, whipped off his wig and stood revealed, I was humbled. I had no idea who he was. Acting on information received, however, I can tell you that it was not the trade union leader. It was the Home Secretary. Now read on, amazed.

I wouldn't say anyone in *The Detective* struck me as being like that, but it all done with a touch of elegance: a bit of wit ("He speaks mediaeval Italian," "Who to?") and, of course, it has Tom Bell coming in like a change in the weather.

The Hunting Party (BBC2), it says here, was the story of a race between a band of aborigines and Australian SAS army reserves. The thing which, like a living fish, I couldn't seem to grasp was that the

aborigines never had any intention of reaching the finishing post first or even of going in that direction.

Although they were led by David Gulpilili, who has been an actor in Hollywood, understands little Western quiddities like working and winning, they walked purposefully in the wrong direction, eating lily stalks and ants nests ("Good for cold, fever, headache") and, guided only by air bubbles, speeking a gannet, a turtle and, astonishingly, a large black bird. They remained throughout in the highest spirits and best of health.

The soldiers meanwhile were "Looking pretty bloody crook" and, after three days without food, gracefully complimenting the chef on his charred catfish ("Even a dead dog would taste good").

They won, if winning had any meaning. It evidently had none for the aborigines. I wish I had understood better David Gulpilili's explanation that the great thing was to follow the creek and avoid hostile spirits. I wish even more I had heard the soldiers' comments.

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SWANSEA

David Adams

A Solitary Confinement

OF Maud Gonne's fight for a Free Ireland, her concern for the Evictions, her campaigning for prisoners, we know little other than that which was appropriated and commemorated by Yeats. To see one's life not as achievement but as a subject for poetry is hardly satisfying for a would-be feminist revolutionary.

A Solitary Confinement by Jan Page was commissioned by and given its premiere at the Taliesin Centre for the Arts, explores the reasons for this fate and argues its case by inventing a setting that is simultaneously 1895 and 1898, the time slip apparently disturbing neither Maud Gonne nor her newly-found friend Sarah as they exchange confidences in a Riviera resort.

Their two lives, the one privileged, passionate and slightly patronising, the disadvantaged, disaffected and despondent, are brought to meet and clash: Maud, the English-born Irish patriot, is seen not to have changed one bit the sexual relationships of her New Ireland while Sarah, the Irish-born Englishwoman, can and has tried to exercise her right to choose, for example, to have an abortion.

It's a play that pertinently places sexual freedom above political freedom by pointing out the male dominated nature of Sinn Féin and the IRA, so questioning the whole revolutionary intent of the nationalists. Sarah, with the hindsight of today, can tell Maud of her failures and

the fraud of the Irish Republic.

But although such questions are at the root of the play, to some extent Jan Page does let it become a personal study of someone who's obviously got a deep fascination for her. The play doesn't altogether work also because the dialogue isn't always convincing, but more because the characters themselves don't live.

BIRMINGHAM

Barry Still

CBSO/Rattle

ANGLICAN cathedral choirs are a unique institution, though few of their number achieve the level of excellence of the 30 singers of Christ Church, Oxford. They are usually dedicated and professional when away from their regular liturgical duties as was made clear when directed by Simon Rattle in two utterly contrasting, but complementary pieces.

Mozart's Requiem benefits from cool, impersonal treatment, when the music itself can carry the message unburdened by emotional overtones and this is where the choir, focused on the trebles and clerics was so apt.

Rattle struck the ideal style in this riveting account, with the exciting fugue in the Kyrie, the terrifying rhythmic power of Dies Irae, the measured joy of the Hosannas. The choir covered the whole gamut of dynamics complemented by precise phrase starts and ends in singing which earned deserved acclaim.

Enfant et les Sortilèges by Ravel brought vivid opportunities for the strong solo team. This is a marvellous score, whose ravishing

sounds were compellingly delivered by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra from the perfectly placed opening oboe duet onwards.

PLYMOUTH

Allen Saddler

Crystal Clear

CRYSTAL Clear is the painfully honest account of relationships between three people, overshadowed by blindness. The discussion of the emotional problems between them is a realisation of the quality of a tape recorder left running. The play was devised by improvisation, with the three actors secure in their characters before the plot.

Naturalness has never been more acute. The humour is bitter, and the situation of a blind person falling in love with a sighted woman who then goes blind is a ruthless working of a grand tragedy in a modern setting.

The Plymouth production is directed by Anthony Allen, who took the lead role in the original production. He has coached a feeling performance from David Miles. Miles' lip exchanges with his blind lover and the dialogue with the other sighted woman in his life is prepared to give, are delivered with a light touch underlined with irony. Here is a man at the end of his tether, railing against his fate with genuine cries of despair. Miles' sensitivity in the part is an object lesson in underplaying to achieve the maximum effect.

Susie Fugle's well-observed blind woman matches the passion of Miles' tragic hero. Christine Kimberley is suitably prosaic in the unsympathetic part of the

woman with a sack full of hang-ups who is willing to dissect them interminably.

TOTNES

Nicolas Cottis

Where The Wind Blows

THE DAY after the VE Day anniversary broke out, the Northcott Theatre Club at Exeter opened a production of Raymond Briggs' nuclear bomb play *Where The Wind Blows*. This is the stage version of his cartoon book about the adventures of Jim and Hilda, patient survivors of the atomic holocaust, and it argues very persuasively that wartime memories should be for backwards looking only.

Arthur Nightingale's Jim is a less cuddly character than the one in the pictures. His spectacular flash as he scuttles about his house like irradiated cockroach, leeching through the pages of *Protect And Survive*. He not only believes it and trusts it, he could almost convince himself that he has written it. Mike Burnside's direction shows a nice observation of the minutiae of physical movement, and Sarah Shipton as Hilda looks and moves and underdresses as though he had floated her off the pages of Briggs' *Mother Goose*.

But the play needs more variety in verbal infection than it gets here—perhaps more than the text provides for, though Hilda has a touch of vitriol in her lines that Sarah Shipton's timing misses. The action moves along like an opera. Now Wagner had a vision of the holocaust which he spaced out over 18 hours, but he used music, too.

Edmond O'Brien

Next week's TV and radio

Monday

Panorama (BBC 1, 9.25). Tom Mangold rides New York's subway with a team of would-be Charles Bronsons inspired by Bernhard Goetz who leapt to fame when he shot four youths he thought were robbing him, and got away with it.

This Year's Blonde (BBC 2, 8.0). Another product of the Marilyn Monroe industry, one of a trilogy of movies based on Carson Kanin's *Moviola*. Stars Constance Forslund, a less than convincing look-alike.

Tuesday

Barriades (ITV, 10.30). "When a bird is killed it appears to dance, but in fact it is writhing in pain": so an old man explains his apparent well-being though he has lost his home, his work, and his friends to the terrible civil war in Lebanon. The same might be said of the three young women this film focuses on, each from a different sect, each trying to lead a normal life.

Behind The Lines (BBC 2, 9.25). Ian Woodbridge forsakes the cissies of the sports stadiums for the real men who aspire to join the elite Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre of the Royal Marines, in this first part of a seven-part series.

Stand By Your Man (C4, 9.0). D.I.V.O.R.C.E. might have been a better title for this Tammy Wynette biopic she has been through four of them. Annie O'Toole, providing her own vocals, impersonates the "queen of country" through her early career and two marriages.

Wednesday

About Time (C4, 9.0). A blast against the tyranny of time, packaged in a six-part series. Illustrated by countless assorted timepieces, apparently random observations and a mass of often fascinating historical detail.

Stammering Cured (BBC 1, 9.25). Orthodox speech therapists may have a word for Andrew R. Bell but as far as his clients are concerned he has the gift of tongues. This QED report follows a group of stammerers on one of his courses.

Catching A Snake (BBC 1, 9.25). Liable profile of Winston Marshall, the virtuoso trumpet player who once turned down the chance to play with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in order to join Art Blakey's band.

Thursday

Nada (BBC 2, 7.50). Touring the world's shantytowns and massaging the liberal conscience is a television staple (on Friday, *World About U* visits Mexico City), and the makers of this Global Report drama-documentary have evidently tried to minimise the element of prurience by ensuring that the subjects of their film have the major say in the making of it. Inspired by Bunuel's *Los Olvidados* and set in the barrios of Bogotá, it tells of a mother's search for her missing children "in a city where it's better for children to die than be lost."

Friday

The Battle For Mansion House Square (BBC 1, 10.15). "Giant glass slump" or "authentic 20th century masterpiece"? This Omnibus report successfully brings alive the debate about whether the developer Peter Palombo should be allowed to build a Mies van der Rohe skyscraper in the heart of the City.

Helen Oldfield

Radio

TODAY: Edinburgh's Golden Mile (Radio 4, 3.30 pm). Investigation of Edinburgh's claim to be the largest financial centre in the EEC outside the City of London. Tomorrow: Unman, Wittering and Zep (Radio 4, 2.30 pm). Repeat of the terrifying Gales Cooper black comedy about the young teacher and the ten-year-old who lives in the gutter. Five (Radio 3, 7 pm). Freddie Jones as Captain Lennu Gulliver in Brian Wright's play about the fifth voyage.

Monday: Space Force (Radio 4, 10 pm). Another galactic adventure, with Charles Chilton's astronauts discovering some rather ancient aliens on Mars. Tuesday: Oxford Voices (Radio 4, 4 pm). Some eminent Oxford women discuss the university and what it means to them: not, unsurprisingly, including Mrs Thatcher.

Wednesday: When You And I Were 17 (Radio 4, 3 pm). Sequel to *Solo Boy*, a charming play about a choirboy, by Hugh Jenkins—and interesting to hear how an ex-Minister of the Arts acquires himself.

Thursday: The Message In The Bottle (Radio 4, 7.40 pm). The drug problem again: this time, alcohol. Geoff Watts investigates a growing problem. Friday: Feedback (Radio 4, 8.45 am). New series of the complaints and queries programme, with Susan Marling in the chair.

Val Arnold-Forster

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

How the devil in Mr Burgess brings God down to earth

BLASPHEMY piles upon blasphemy. Last week intimacies were propounded between Mary Magdalene and Jesus Christ. Now the heretical scribe Anthony Burgess suggests that Jesus, possessing the strength and vast lungs of an ox, was removed unconscious from the tree of shame to be restored to full vigour after a healing sleep.

Hearken then, to the law. The blasphemer shall be stripped naked, four cubits from the place of stoning. At a distance of 10 cubits, stoning shall commence until the transgressor falls. Three or four men shall then raise the greatest stone and break the ribs.

Gird yourselves, for in these proceedings you will hear of abominations, unnatural acts and masturbation. Aye, and worse. The additional charges are that the author proclaims Jesus's innocence, has ridiculed the Pope ("To him all women are the Virgin Mary") and dealt in black magic. The charge of eating human flesh in New Guinea, admitted but vitiated as an act of ignorance, has been dropped. It is replaced by the inculpation of being too clever by half.

THE Kingdom of the Wicked tops off Burgess's unfinished business with the Bible. It is a recreation of early Christianity beginning at the Last Supper where the disciples, rather in the manner of a surly football team abandoned by their manager, cobble together a strategy to

play the game of love. The opposing team, mustering Tiberius, Caligula and Nero, play very dirtily indeed.

Stonings are pretty commonplace. His scripts for the TV series *Mosses*, the Lawgiver and Jesus of Nazareth tell foul of Southern Baptists even as he was writing spin-offs in novel form. His latest book was compiled in tandem with the 10-hour series AD, shown recently on American television.

Puffing an evil little cigar in a London hotel this week, he recalled that he had married Jesus of Nazareth off in his script for Sir Lew (now Lord) Grade. "I've always assumed," that Christ was married," he said. "He didn't start his mission until he was 30. Being a young Jewish boy in a small town he would undoubtedly have married at the age of about 20."

He had unctuously stated his intentions at a press conference in Rome. "I said we're trying to show Christ as a common man, so you'll smell the blood and feel the impact of the nails. The trouble started immediately."

Italian censors bawled him with alterations. "Those religious experts tried everything to have me thrown out of Italy. Hypocrites!" General Motors then withdrew its funding after Southern Baptist threats to boycott its cars. IBM stepped in. Meanwhile, Sir Lew was entranced. "We used to see him in the viewing room

practically every day, trying to understand it. He's started something that was just too big for him."

He denies that he is still trying to exorcise his Catholic childhood. (He attended a Catholic college in Manchester.) He is attracted more by the Bible's intellectual tradition, blending myth and philosophy. He sees it also as a comedy — Peter, hungry as hell, dreaming of food and hearing a voice that said "Eat, all is good." After that, pork was back on the menu.

And the whole idea of God planting Christianity in Rome, the last place in the world where it should go. God's jokes are rather heavy and they're rather sexual. They're based on the penis: to circumcise or not to circumcise. They're also based on this fight against the many-breasted Oriental sex goddess. You have to see it in those terms.

Entertainment, not uplift, is his defence. While the Church sheds its articles of faith, "Once you start saying it's only a symbolic thing you'll end up with Christ as a mushroom. All right, fine. But the Church of England has to go that way. It's in the very seeds of Christianity to get rid of everything. It's amazing that the Church of England has lasted so long."

As a writer he is embarrassed by miracles, but has experienced black magic. It had begun when he took up a teaching post in Malaya in

1954. He and his first wife were temporarily housed in a former Japanese interrogating centre. "Our bathroom was covered with dried blood. I always felt there was something wrong with the damn place, when you went into the bathroom there was an extreme chill. It was a spiritual cold."

Finally I met a Tamil gentleman who was a magician. He tried, and very nearly succeeded, in luring my wife away from me by enforcing a total paralysis on myself. God knows how he did it. I was never sceptical again. You've got to be near a jungle, I think. There's something in the jungle that is not quite right."

At 88, this year he has knocked off a book about D. H. Lawrence. Lolls and dark gods made Christianity seem pale. He has now embarked on the big one that breaks all the rules, a novel about Manchester in the 1930s. On the drawing board at his home in Monaco is an opera about Sigmund Freud — "the victory of some over psyche."

Thought-association took us to VE Day, which Burgess, a sergeant-major in intelligence, spent in a Spanish jail. He had awoken that morning from a hangover induced by Court Martial Beer to find Gibraltar awash with bawling soldiers. Loud was their spewing. "I decided to go to Spain for the afternoon. I got very drunk in a Spanish cafe and started shouting the odds about General Franco."

He was picked up and gaoled until his unit rescued him three days later. He was haunted by the impression that the smell of roasted flesh was drifting in from the wind from Europe.

He once said of his distant cousin, Guy Burgess: "He pissed in our soup and we drank it. His own torrents of credulity have been sampled more thoughtfully. Was he sensitive to criticism? 'Yes, terribly. I'll never get over it.'"

He has been told all his life that he writes too much. His ironies had been misunderstood, his deliberate errors spotted. Philistines everywhere. He once heard a professor claim that the key to his work was the name of his first novel's hero, R. Ennis. Backwards this spelled sinner.

As a critic he feels more slammed against than slapping. The New York Review of Books never spares him, he says. By a divine joke one of his tormentors employed by that organ is Clive James, on whose TV show he appears tonight.

I'm not happy about it, but you've got to try and sell a book. He's a very good journalist but the novel he wrote was disastrous. I thought. A bit of a chip on his shoulder about being Australian. He's getting bald and he's getting fat."

Over to you, Clive.

The Kingdom of the Wicked is published on Monday by Hutchinson, £9.95.



BURGESS: Seeing the Bible as comedy.

Picture by Graham Turner

Stepping out of the shadows

THERE is something faintly disturbing about the energy of American performers, even off stage. Discharging unnatural voltages, they effervesce and their eyes threaten to smother with the excitement of it all. This is not the British way. Nor is the fact that they're so maddeningly good at what they do.

It's energy, discipline and focus, but the greatest of these is discipline, says Oceana Bragg, whose Solid State Art company has brought more than 40 young artists to form the contemporary wing of the American Festival which begins on Monday.

"It's all built into the training system so that you get the right result," she explained at the Bloomsbury Theatre, where Bite the Big Apple will be staged over the next fortnight. "It's something that develops out of an environment. This is not a criticism of the British people, but my feeling here is that the commitment is not as strong."

"We call it 'on'. An artist will seize every opportunity to be 'on'. This is probably why an American musical entertainer once offered to show me the tattoo on her chest."

Oceana Bragg was a dancer with the Metropolitan Opera and for the past eight years has been directing the Lower East Side of New York. The centre is a leading presenter of dance companies from all over America as well as the cultural hub of the Bowers, the deadbeat area of Manhattan with an increasingly upbeat reputation.

Last year she and her partner David Kincaide decided to provide a new platform for the explosion of young talent and has now set up in New York. Solid State Art Inc is a packaging operation which produces mixed programmes for dif-



Into the Limelight: BRAGG, above and PAYNE, Right. Picture by Garry Weaser

ferent presenters. At the Bloomsbury they have programmed concerts that embrace dance, music, video and theatre.

It is not a lucrative business. They expect a shortfall of £9,000 on their budget of £48,000, and are hoping for more funding to complete their tour to Manchester and Europe. "Funding at home is very difficult," she said. "We are dealing with the same amount of dollars. It just has to go further."

They are offering American food as well. Her mother, a former caterer known to all as "Aunt Bragg," will preside over such mysteries as black-eyed peas, spoon bread and American turkey.

Above all, it will be an opportunity to view the latest American contemporary arts.

When British reserve must stay offstage

"YOU'LL have to take me as I am," said Sarah Payne, apparently apologising for her appearance. What she looks like on a good day does not bear thinking about. She has the unenviable task of taking over from the actress who took over from Ellen Greene, who created the role of Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors. This is the cautionary musical tale of a dumb blonde florist who tends a plant with ideas above its flowerpot. The task is un-

viable because it is still measured against the luminous performance of Ellen Greene, an American actress of awesome energy.

Sarah Payne is British, at 25 a veteran of Barnum and Singing in the Rain. She was a friend of Ellen Greene, and knew her "scattergun" brio. Why are we so different?

"I think it's all to do with British reserve," she said. "Our pow is often half what American pizzazz is. When I

am doing rehearsals I go full-belt once in the day, but there's no point in driving yourself into the ground. I think you have to work yourself into a part, you can't just step into it."

Clare Leach, the American star of 42nd Street, told Payne recently that only death would stop her appearing on stage. How ill did Sarah have to be to send on her understudy. Pretty sick, she replied. "I had German measles when I was in Barnum."

I looked down and saw it was everywhere. We had to mangle it up off a kid."

She had played an operative role in Barnum, her big break. "I was determined to prove I could do something else and not just play ingenu leads for the rest of my life."

After university, she started her career singing in clubs and pubs, a desperate measure to secure an Equity card.

Manchester Guardian 1935

MAY 11: It was a good thing that the King and Queen chose the poor quarters of Lambeth and Battersea for their surprise drive today (at the time of their Silver Jubilee) instead of South Kensington or Bayswater, for there are hardly any decorations in the latter and the former are full of them. Moreover, the Lambeth and Battersea decorations are mainly home made and are full of character. Even in the back streets of Battersea are streamers of paper red, white, and blue roses strung from window to window, and the kerb and window lintels are painted red, white, and blue. Hoops from barrels strung with paper flowers are hung up, and pavement artists out of professional hours have painted the King and Queen with twirly frames on many walls and pavements. The queer cockney humour breaks through in such a sign as "Lousy but loyal."

BERLIN, MAY 10: Herr Julius Streicher, the notorious anti-Semitic publisher of the "Stürmer," in whose native city of Nuremberg the Anti-Jewish World League is at present holding overflow meetings, has received from Sir Oswald Mosley a telegram which is published in the German press today. After thanking Herr Streicher for a previous message, Sir Oswald says:

I greatly esteem your message in the midst of our hard struggle. The forces of Jewish corruption must be conquered in all great countries before the future of Europe can be made secure in justice and peace. Our struggle is hard, but our victory is certain.

MAY 13: The Prince of Wales delivered a speech at

luncheon during his visit to Cardiff. The toast of "The Prince of Wales" proposed by the Lord Mayor (Alderman John Donovan), was supported by Mr. Lloyd George, who said that he had been invited as the representative of North Wales, in order to show that North and South joined in a united welcome to the Prince.

Responding to the toast, the Prince of Wales said: "While the Jubilee is being celebrated here today we are bound to have in our minds the words which the King used in his broadcast last Monday (May 6) when his Majesty said that in the midst of the day's rejoicings he grieved to think of the many people still without employment."

"Having seen for myself," said the Prince, "the discouragement which has afflicted valleys and ports in the Principality, I can express my profound admiration for the courage and fortitude displayed by all. Each one of us is anxiously hoping for the advent of better times, and although we still have a long way to go there are signs that we are slowly but surely creeping back towards recovery."

There is a growing feeling that a special effort should be made to bring this protracted misery to an end."

MAY 14: Mr Lloyd George spent an hour and a half this morning (May 13) in further discussion of his plans with Cabinet Ministers. Contrary to expectation agriculture, and not roads and railways, was the question discussed. This is not without significance, because much time has already been spent upon Mr Lloyd George's proposals for land settlement.

There is no doubt whatever that the Government are prepared before they met Mr Lloyd George — to adopt some land settlement schemes, and the question now is how far they are prepared to go.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Irving Berlin, composer, 97; Carla Bley, jazz pianist, composer, 47; Rhodri Egoon, minister of state for North Ireland, 60; Eric Burdon, rock, blues singer, 44; Salvador Dalí, surrealist painter, 81.

TOMORROW: Bart Bacharach, composer, songwriter, 56; Alan Ball, footballer, 40; Sir Lennor Berkeley, composer, 82; Colin Dowdeswell, tennis player, 30; Ian Dury, rock singer, 43; Susan Hampshire, actress, 44; Nicky Katt, actor, 40; Lord Kaldor, economist, 77.

MONDAY: Clive Barnes, critic, 98; Dame Daphne du Maurier, author, 78; Gill Evans, jazz pianist, arranger, orchestra conductor, 73; Jane Glover, conductor, 36.

TUESDAY: Francesca Annis, actress, 40; Dr Hastings Banda, president, Malawi, 80; Chay Blyth, yachtsman, 45.

WEDNESDAY: Constance Cummings, actress, 75; P. C. Dargatzis, rugby, former England cricket captain, 50; Trial Lopez, singer, 40; Mike Oldfield, composer, 32.

THURSDAY: Bernard Braden, actor and author, 60; Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman, Stock Exchange, 51; Woody Herman, clarinetist, bandleader, 72.

FRIDAY: Sugar Ray Leonard, world welter-weight boxing champion, 29; Birgit Nilsson, operatic soprano, 63.

A military live wire with peaceful intent

WE MET, appropriately, in the buffet at Slough Station. Tony Wilson is the co-ordinator of Electronics for Peace and highly critical of the military system in which he works. But it wasn't that sort of meet. Wilson was publicly honoured by the electronics industry last week and Slough was a lot closer than Marshfield, near Bath, where he is based.

Electronics for Peace, founded in 1982, has a membership of 300, of which about 20 per cent work in the military complex. Wilson is a reliability engineer who has worked on the Chevaline programme to update Polaris, on the Parmigan battlefield control system and on military space systems.

"What links us is a common concern about the militarisation of our industry and the effect on society and the planet," he said. "We cover a cross-section of views from straight pacifism to a hard line. I believe we need a strong defence, but not massive overkill."

He claims that British defence is ineffectual, expensive and dangerously non-accountable. "Britain deploys defence systems that are really in the development stage, with major errors built in. If there was an emergency the system couldn't cope. We only just survived the Falklands."



WILSON: We need change.

Picture by Martin Argles

pedoes were taken to the Falklands, when it came to the crunch. Second World War vintage 'iron fish' were fired. EFP recently produced a severe critique of the cruise missiles installed in Britain, drawn from material published in the US. He also claims that the battlefield control system used by Nato is so complex that

repairs are difficult even on exercises.

EFP's concern is not entirely altruistic. Wilson believes that the trend towards computer-aided design and manufacture will drastically reduce defence jobs in the next decade, while increasing the security apparatus of the state.

The preponderance of Min-

istry of Defence funding in research means that electronics engineers' choice of not working for the military is strictly limited. Wilson discovered this in 1980, when he turned down a long-term offer to work on Trident in order to go solo. Unable to earn enough, he returned.

His answer is to switch the balance of funding into com-

merce so that the military benefits from spin-offs rather than stifling the market. He would like to see cooperation at local level to use this expertise for more appropriate, non-military purposes.

"Isn't it seen as a subversive?" I did hear an MoD man suggest that I was a security risk and should be sacked, but in my opinion he's a bigger security risk than I am. It's the people who keep quiet about mistakes that are part of the problem. I don't propagandise. People at work know what I stand for."

"We need a change in the Official Secrets Act, which effectively stops people speaking out without great personal risk. Secrecy has kept us quiet about mistakes that are being made."

Last week the electronics industry named Wilson as personality of the year. A leading contender for the title was Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of STC. A current, it seems, is being reversed.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

Men of letters, men of action

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Hugh Brogan

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PAPERBACKS

Mr Reagan finally finds his axe

The importance of President Reagan's \$56 billion budget cuts for the fiscal 1986 — including a freeze on defence spending — is not whether they will survive intact when the House of Representatives gets hold of them (they almost certainly won't), but the fact that they have been made at all. Here is a President, at the end of an image-battering European tour, having to make a politically humiliating climbdown over defence spending. Instead of rising, as promised, by at least 6 per cent above the inflation rate in 1986 (following a "real" increase of 40 per cent over the past three years) defence spending will be limited to the rise in prices. In conditions more like Rookery Nook than Capitol Hill (with a hospitalised Republican wheeled in to make the vote 49/49 thereby enabling Vice-President Bush to jet in from Phoenix with a casting vote) the White House did a volte-face which leaves Mr Gorbachev bemused in the Geneva starting stalls.

The proposals now go to the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives where all 435 members are up for election next year. The Democrats will hardly contemplate putting their names to the other controversial item in the deficit package — the freeze (i.e. reduction in real terms) on increases in social security. They will remind the President that during last year's campaign he promised not to tamper with social security payments. Instead they will press for more tax increases while the President, doubtless, reminds them that during the same campaign he said that there would be tax increases "over my dead body".

What is significant is not what will eventually emerge from the Congress mincing machine, but that the Reagan Administration has reached an historic turning point, a doomsday realisation that the expanding US deficit (\$300 billion this year on optimistic budget projections) simply cannot go on.

The games are now over. The President knows he cannot have his deficit and eat it. The size of the prospective cuts (\$300 billion over three years) are big enough to satisfy most of the President's Wall Street critics. They are, though, in no sense ideal. The defence restraints are welcome and long overdue. But the freeze on social security payments is unjustified and unnecessary. A far better source of economies would have been the bottomless pit of corporate and personal tax privileges, which the Democrats may yet dig into.

Nevertheless, it is possible to see the start of a more virtuous spiral in which a falling US deficit triggers lower (real) interest rates, lessening the attraction of the currency to international investors which in turn brings down the value of the dollar and begins to restore the lost competitiveness of American industry. Developing countries will benefit from lower interest rates. But they will also suffer from a restoration — eventually — of US competitiveness and an end to America as an importers' paradise. Sadly, the opportunity for other strong industrialised nations to take over the "locomotive" role from the US was turned down at this month's economic summit in Bonn. Curing the American deficit is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for prolonging the world recovery. But if President Reagan can do such a dramatic U-turn on campaign promises, one may at least hope that Mrs Thatcher, who is beginning to be dogged by eerily similar bad luck over here, might yet get the message.

A day like any other day?

No less an observer than Karl Marx described the 1855 Sunday trading legislation as a coercive measure which restricted the liberty of ordinary people to make the purchases they want from the small shops of their choice. So, for once, Mrs Thatcher and Dr Marx are in total agreement. The Government has decided to place the full whiplash weight of its Commons majority behind last year's Auld report recommendations to do away with restrictions on late night and Sunday shop opening. In the past, when the whips have been off, a cross party alliance of MPs has defeated such attempts at reform. Two years ago, on the last occasion, Mr Ray Whitney's private member's bill was trounced 205 to 106 by an alliance of saboteurs, large retailers and USDAW, the shopworkers' union. But on Monday week, in spite of the backbench revolt promised yesterday by Mr Ivor Stanbrook and his friends, there should be enough Government votes to ensure that the principle of reform is upheld this time round. Legislation is expected to follow this autumn in the new parliamentary session.

None of the objectors, not even Mr Stanbrook, tries to defend every detail of the existing tangle of unenforced and unenforceable fine print that makes up our Sunday trading laws. What they are trying to preserve is an idealised British Sunday dedicated to God, the family lunch and the Home Service, which they see threatened by a trend towards football, booze and Game for a Laugh. And if that crusade means defending a mish-mash of legal contradictions that allow you to buy Playboy but not the Bible on Sundays, then that is a price worth paying. What they forget is that there should always be a choice. The reformers of this world from observing the kind of Sunday which they refer to. It is the opponents of change who are trying to prescribe how others shall behave, and they are using a model which is not only out of line with most people's preferred behaviour today, but one that always has been. The Sunday trading laws which Marx criticised in 1855 were imposed against enormous popular opposition at a time of declining church attendance. Sabbatarian legislation in the 1850s provoked some of the largest and most spontaneous demonstrations ever seen. Sunday trading itself, in the form of London's Petticoat Lane and Chub Row, for example, is one of the most tenacious aspects of working-class life. And the campaigns of the 1870s for the "free Sunday," for recreation and entertainment in parks and for the opening of museums, are part of a vigorous tradition of popular culture.

The abolition of Sunday trading restrictions would bring the law into line with the wishes of today's majority, as public opinion polls convincingly show. But abolition would also fit the reality of the way that people already live their lives. This isn't just a question of church, which only 10 per cent of people actually attend anyway. It is much more the reality of shopping itself that dictates change. As things stand, a third of all goods are bought on Saturdays and 60 per cent of working families do their personal food shopping on Saturdays too. Spreading that load onto Sundays would ease that burden. To pretend, as the defenders of the existing laws do, that liberalisation would change the British Sunday is simply not true. It is the law that is out of step, and the freeing of existing restrictions would be a common sense and non-coercive recognition of the quality of life for which most people have long ago opted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the Alliance accent must be on coalition

Sir — It is not surprising that leading officials of the Association of Liberal Councilors should seek (Guardian, May 4) to divert attention from their unwillingness to accept a share of responsibility on hung councils by reviving the Liberal-SDP merger issue. But it is surprising that the Guardian should join this fight from responsibility (Leader, May 7).

The issue posed by the Alliance is whether a sustained, structured, and effective coalition is possible in Britain in peacetime. If the Liberals and the SDP cannot work together in coalition when the present electoral system makes it the price of survival, how much less likely is it that the Alliance can work in coalition with either Labour or the Conservatives in a hung parliament?

If coalition is not possible in Britain in peacetime, and minority government leads to weakness and instability, we must devise an electoral system which enables the party preferred by the majority of voters to gain governing majority. One way of doing this would be to have a directly elected executive with

powers similar to those of an American president. Another would be to have two elected Houses of Parliament. One could be a law-making body based on proportional representation, and the other responsible for the executive arm with control over finance.

This House could be elected by a system which enabled voters to rank parties in order of preference so that the party preferred by the majority of voters formed the government. The government would then have to function within a legislative framework created by a separate body which accurately reflected the different strands of opinion in society.

For the Alliance now to divert scarce energy into a revival of the merger debate would be an act of total irresponsibility. The issue the Guardian and the Alliance should both face is how can we get a government sustained in counties with no overall majority?

It is my fear that we shall see a serious disruption of local government, encouraged by the antics of the lesser castin' parties to the Liberal and Labour Parties, and that this will be a foretaste

of the damage that will occur as a consequence of a minority government in a future parliament.

Since we face a new electoral pattern with three or four parties each with a substantial body of support, we need to consider how we can adapt a constitution designed for two parties alternating in office so that government can function effectively within the new electoral geography.

Short-lived, weak, and unstable governments will mean the end of any hope of overcoming the causes of Britain's long-term economic decline. New thinking is required — now. — Yours Trevor Luesby, 55 Holland Road, Exmouth, Devon

Sir — Arising from your Leader, "Two into one should go" (May 6). May I make a suggestion?

I feel that it is wise not to press for an early decision on the leadership of the Alliance. However I agree with your proposition that a closer relationship between the Liberal and Labour Parties in the run-up to the next general election is the

present Conservative Government is to be removed.

May I suggest that the Liberals and the Social Democrats make an equal sacrifice and join forces not as an Alliance party — an unattractive name — but as a plain Democratic Party. This would dispel any aura of laissez-faire or of state socialism, and would present a united party in an attempt to represent honestly the needs and ideas of the people of this country, voting eventually through proportional representation. — Nancy Salamina, Newport, Essex.

Sir — Your Leader (May 7) asks when the marriage between the Liberal Party and the SDP will take place. The range of views across the Alliance is no more, and probably less, than the range in the Tory and Labour Parties. So there is no objection to a marriage except private, which cometh before a general election fall.

The simple solution, which would avoid the present confusion for the electorate, is for SDP members to join the Liberal Party. That would be most likely to give an electoral success which in turn

would in turn lead to electoral reform, when ex-SDP members could recon- sider whether a separate party was desirable. — Trevor Brown, Newbury, Berkshire.

Sir — Ivor Crewe's analysis of the county council elections (Agenda, May 6) — like that of most other analysts — is too static. There is not going to be a general election tomorrow and, as Mr Kinnoch should know, there cannot be one in a fortnight. What is certain is that the Alliance has a large and visible presence on most county councils. Its share of the vote will not stay where it is. If it impresses the public with its behaviour and its policies in the limelight which is now assured, its support is bound to increase. If not, it will fall back again.

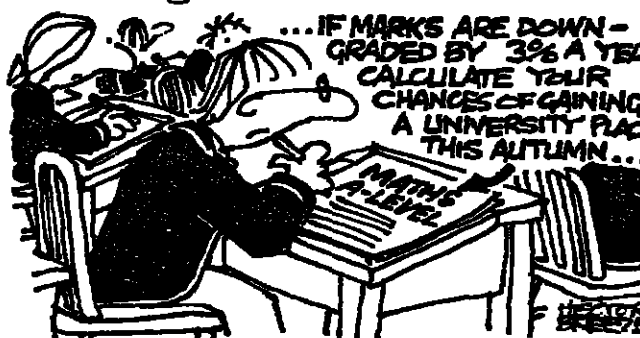
The point is that it will take only a relatively small further advance to start upping the ante of the other two parties. Here in Hampshire, the Alliance scored under 22 per cent of the poll in 1981, and secured 6 per cent of the seats. This time we have 36 per cent of the votes and 30 per cent of the seats. Our vote is

up from 96,000 to 163,000 — only 25,000 behind the Tories. A mere transfer of another 4 per cent of the poll from the Tories would add another 14 seats to the present 31, and make us much the largest party.

Similarly at national level: with about 23 per cent support throughout the country, the figure in the South must be of the order of 35 per cent. At that level Conservative seats would start falling like ninespins, and the relationship between Alliance votes and seats would start coming closely into line — as it already has in Hampshire.

The target of 100 seats is quite realistic and, if that is attained, there is no way in which either of the other parties could secure an overall majority in the Commons. Indeed the bias in the electoral system could soon start working in our favour: it may not be long before Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock join Francois Mitterrand in seeing the virtues of proportional representation — if only in limiting the damage to themselves. — Yours, etc. Harry R. Cole, Winchester, Hampshire.

How the kangaroo courts are cheating our sixth-formers



Sir — D. J. Rowe (Letters, May 7) does not state whether he writes as a university admissions tutor or as an A-level examiner. In either case his reluctance to envisage change in the A-level system is perfectly understandable (far more understandable than some of the figures he quotes).

As a polytechnic admissions officer, I would much more than be willing to see the "considerable problems" of the system shared more equally with my university counterparts. The universities know nothing of the confusion caused to young people and their parents when predicted A or B grades turn mysteriously into Ds or Es, or of the mess this makes of the polytechnic admissions process. I doubt whether they care either.

There is a major injustice in the A-level system than the one discussed by John Fairhall (Guardian, May 2). Those who mark the scripts have no control over what "adjustments" are made to the raw totals they supply to the examining boards, which work in secrecy to produce "appropriate" distributions of grades each year.

As admissions officer for a BSE social studies degree course for the last three years, I have become ever more familiar with the phenomenon of sixth-formers attaining D grades or worse when Bs or better were predicted. The sheer number of these under-achievers and the systematic way in which their grades have varied from teachers' predictions over this period persuaded me that something is wrong.

As we now know that "only a handful of marks separate a B grade from a D, or the difference between admission and rejection by a university" it is not hard to calculate the effect of standards of performance by candidates might well have secured them grade Bs in 1982, grade Ds in 1983, and grade Es or worse in 1984. If this is so, what is to become of the 1985 candidates?

I base this on the assumption that examining boards made downward adjustments of about three per cent in each of these years to the raw marks they received from examiners in order to come up with a preset target number of passes at each grade; or to put it another way, in order to maintain a "normal distribution" of

pass marks. As examiners are compelled to conform to the normal distribution in any case, this second stage can be a university of "grading" university matriculation.

It is widely assumed that marks or grades must conform to the "normal curve." I can trace this belief back to the early years of the century when the distribution of marks in educational minds with reason, order, and justice, although I know of no scientific basis for it. I consider it to be a superstition which has been thrown out long ago with all the other discredited baggage of mental testing if it were not so cruelly useful in the management of educational opportunities.

In any case, normal curves applied to human populations — from Galton's first attempt — often reflect social and political assumptions which might be highly controversial: such as, in this case, the assumption about the desirable size of the group of school-leavers to be permitted entry to higher education.

The examining boards should be asked just whom they are working for. Their revenues come from the fees paid by or on behalf of the candidates they treat so badly. Is it not time for an enquiry into their role and functioning?

Each year sixth-formers achieve high standards only to find their efforts rejected by these kangaroo courts. Issues such as the observance of civil liberties have not troubled the examining boards. And to the extent that sixth-formers have collaborated they will have become allies of the Tories in their bid to cut back educational opportunities.

J. Rowe is correct to point out that adopting the current proposals will certainly not mean any greater number of students obtaining university places; and they might even lead to the exclusion. But the answer is not to keep school-leavers and their parents in the dark.

If young people are not to have university places, they should know the reasons, and they should be able to hear the guilty themselves by falsely being labelled as A-level "failures." — Yours faithfully, Charles Smith, Tessa's Polytechnic, Middlesbrough.

A COUNTRY DIARY

GLEN SHELL: What a difference this spring's weather to last year's. As I write a thin crust of snow drapes the slopes and the summits have the white look of winter. One year ago we sweated on dry and sun-drenched hills at the head of Loch Duich. A memorable day was spent on a circuit of The Saddle, best mountain above Glen Shiel and all Kintail in its proportions and fine rock architecture. As we went along the most rewarding way to cover the ground here is to go up the long, heathery ridge of A'Mhuigh to the foot of the Forcan ridge. Cuckoos were calling as we went up the tick-infested slopes (gaiters have more than one use on Scottish hills). Then came the lovely rock arête where the hot air shimmered, and from its top we looked ahead to The Saddle's summit draped still in winter's snow. One of the great attractions of these heights is the way you pop up in clear weather to the watershed and see great Western

vistas: the Skye Cullin, Applecross Hills and far away in the north the glories of Torridon. The shapely cone of this mountain has the look of the Tyrol, especially so when snowed, as now, with spring snow. The way continues from the 3,314 feet summit, first westwards then round to the north, keeping to the long, undulating ridge which runs for five miles down to Rannag on Loch Duich's forested shore. As we went along the burning heat of the afternoon there were spectacular views to the left, down into the huge, smooth head of Glen More with signs of recent forest planting. On the right we looked back to The Saddle's northern precipices, where the first route was put up almost 60 years ago. Cows and calves were grazing in the soft evening light by the tumbling Allt Undalain as we came through swampy pastures on the path down to Shiel Bridge; cuckoos were singing still.

ROGER A. REDFERN.

Bickering that mars the VE memories

Sir — Now that this wretched VE-week is over, those of us who fought in that war can feel nothing but bitterness and shame.

It wasn't possible, for just one day, for the former allies to unite in a memory of sacrifice and achievement, or to suspend the denigration and the name-calling. A US president who was, it seems, too shortsighted for the war and a Soviet leader who was too young for it, use the occasion to warm up the hostilities between capitalist democracy and communism which did so much to bring on the second world war and now threaten us with a third.

No one, at Stalingrad or in Normandy, died for this. The dead are silent; their silence is an accusation. — Sincerely, Mervyn Jones, 10 Waterside Place, London NW1.

Sir — The 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War has been a sombre and inadequate experience. I remember the occasion well and how resolutely the Manchester Guardian reprints recall the period. I remember the shock of discovering the extermination camps, and later the power of the fast atom bomb.

With all these recollections, the inadequacy of our present appreciation is starkly evident. We discovered at the end of the war the possible extent of man's inhumanity to man: it was an appalling revelation. We had lost our innocence, our self respect and our confidence and, more sadly, we have shown little urge to recover them. We accept, with prosaic indifference, sadistic torture all over the world, and we discuss guilt and shame in selfish terms, notching up old accounts.

Young Germans, unborn when the Third Reich fell, deny any sense of guilt. But all humanity has a common shame which we show little wish to expiate, although somehow I believe we must. Instead we hear strident politicians of Left and Right, East and West, trotting out their pat world still, I believe, stunned by the anguish of the century.

After such a tragedy, humility should be our strength; sadly it is not. Empty carillons add resonance to our shame. — Yours sincerely, (Dr) Crawford Robb, 11 Downesway, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

Sir — Even if, as Neil Kinnock claims (Guardian, May 9), the recent Bonn summit was a "do-nothing summit," at least one encouraging sign came out of it: the refusal of the European governments to endorse President Reagan's phobia about Nicaragua.

However it needs more than a refusal to join in his mean-minded trade embargo if the rights of small sovereign states are to be protected against the bullying tactics of the big and powerful. In this week of justified remembrance of the defeat of Nazism, we should also remember that that conflict arose because of a failure to stand up to similar bullying of small nations by a powerful neighbour in 1938-9.

Far from being a communist tyrant, as President Reagan alleged, Nicaragua has developed a pluralist society, with the majority of the industry, agriculture, and commerce remaining in private ownership. Political expression is far more free than in most other Central American states and certainly is far more so than in some of those countries enjoying US "assistance".

I suppose, in one sense, the fears of the Americans are justified. If democratic freedom is allowed to break out in one Central American country, it could spread to others currently ruled by US backed totalitarian regimes of the right.

What is needed now is further pressure on our Government to ensure that Nicaragua receives fair treatment and can continue its progress of the last six years free from intimidation. — Yours faithfully, Ralph Gayton, 23 Lacey Road, Taverham, Norwich.

Sir — The VE-day celebrations would not be complete without a sneering headline (Guardian, May 9)

guide to maternity services in City and Hackney were concerned at the lack of consensus among consultant obstetricians on the medical management of pregnancy and childbirth. It was of even greater concern that there was no independent monitoring of the impact of these different policies, whose implementation rested on the individual consultant's belief that this was what was good for women.

Further investigation revealed considerable variance between what the consultant believed happened to his patients, and what midwives and junior staff said actually happened. This raised questions about the

amount of time consultants spent in reversing policy implementation.

The different intervention rates between the two maternity units in our district is one serious outcome. For three years we have been asking for an investigation into why, for example, the forceps rate is three times higher in one unit than the other.

We have asked that obstetric practice be clinically audited and that the information be made available to women and their general practitioners. Women then can decide which consultant they want to be responsible for their care. A clinical audit would also ensure that

consultants had more knowledge of what was happening in their units.

Obstetrics has for too long introduced unproven techniques into practice and marginalised those who ask for proof that these are beneficial to women. Wendy Savage's suspension can be seen in this light. If the practices and records of her colleagues were examined with the same scrutiny that she has apparently experienced, a true comparison could be made.

Fedelmia Winkler, Helen Rosenthal, City and Hackney Community Health Council, London E2.

Sir — As one of the councillors detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at Manchester airport (Guardian, May 7), I was intrigued by the comments of the Greater Manchester Police.

They say these were random checks, akin to Customs checks. This seems strange because when councillors Sheena Clarke, Clive Betts, Howard Knight, and myself flew out to Belfast we were the only Sheffield Labour councillors on the flight; and the only people stopped and questioned by the RUC Special Branch.

When Sheena Clarke flew back to Manchester she was the only Sheffield Labour

miscellaneous at large

councillor on the flight and the only person detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. When I flew back I was the only Sheffield Labour councillor on my flight and the only person from that flight who was detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The only conclusion I can draw from this is that there is a random check on all Sheffield Labour councillors who visit Northern Ireland, and that the police believe in 100 per cent sampling. — Tony Dams, The Town Hall, Sheffield.

Sir — You honour with a prominent place on your front page (May 9) the interesting news of a breakthrough Scottish group seeking better publicity for Toryism, which will be named the Campaign for the Communication of Conservative Policies. One cannot help wondering, will the acronym by which this enterprising group will infallibly be known remind Scottish Tories of absolutely nothing? Or is someone perpetrating an incongruously ingenious practical joke? — Yours, etc. Prof. Sir Lawrence Gowing, University College London.

Sir — Prime ministers may indeed be very forgettable people — but should our member, Ben Pimlott (Guardian Book, May 9), have forgotten quite so quickly that the first name of A. J. Balfour was Arthur, not Alfred, and that his successor as leader of the Unionists was Andrew, not Richard Boner Law? — Yours sincerely, Colin Buckley, Middleton, Manchester.

Unthinkable thoughts for GCHQ managers

Sir — In the corridors of every block at GCHQ there are noticeboards, officially installed many years ago to carry trade union notices. These days, self-appointed management censors try to ensure that union notices do not remain for long, although literature put out by newly formed departmental staff association is apparently acceptable.

Your excellent common-sense Leader, "The need to think again about GCHQ" (May 6) has been much remarked on and discussed here in Cheltenham, and a photocopy of it appeared in the centre of the otherwise empty notice board near my office on Wednesday lunchtime. It remained, unmarked, throughout that afternoon and was still there the next morning when it came



the eye of a management type on his way into work.

He stood there and scrutinised it. He would pass many times, or would it fall? No, I am sorry to report that your views were not considered fit reading for the staff at GCHQ, so down it came. (It

was replaced within moments of his retreating into his inner sanctum. Keep up the good work.) — Yours faithfully, Jeremy Windust, 31 Hales Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Phil Shaw

Meninga takes final bow

The Sterling-Kenny spectacular will be a hard act to follow. But the First Division table insists that Hull Kingston Rovers and St Helens, who contest the Slalom Lager Premiership final at Elland Road, Leeds, this afternoon, are capable of maintaining the competition's reputation for producing rousing finales to the season.

Rovers, who became the first side ever to do the double of League and Premiership last year, return as champions. Saints finished second and are hailed by many as the most attractive side in the game. So today's match is the meeting of the top seeds.

The final brings into opposition the finest two sides in the game. Rovers have seen since Billy Bremner locked horns with Pat Croward, Mal Meninga will be making his last appearance for St Helens, and the Australian Board's new hard line on overseas players to Britain means the Bundaberg Bomber is unlikely to return.

Rovers' left centre, Gary Prohm, is also due to fly out soon to play for New Zealand against the Kangaroos. Having scored 45 tries this season — only Ellery Hanley did better — he needs one today to break the 71-year-old record for a centre.

Prohm is a rugged character — not, perhaps, the classic silky centre, but as Alex Murphy put it, "he hasn't scored all those tries by hanging around looking elegant". Meninga also seems to be idling, but that sudden touch on the accelerator has brought him 25 touchdowns.

St Helens set a First Division points record, amassing 920 and scoring at least 26 in each of their last 10 games, but they remain vulnerable in defence. Rovers are a better balanced side, and have had a 10-day break since their semi-final scrap with Leeds.

Gavin Miller, Rovers' outstanding loose forward, misses the match because of a torn finger ligament. David Hall deputises, and must prevent his opposite number, Harry Pinner, from finding space to use his handling skills. Otherwise, the champions, select from strength, with Gordon Smith edging Paul Harkin out at scrum-half, and Mark Broadhurst primed to display his consummate forward skills before going back for good to New Zealand.

Sean Day, the goal-kicking winger, is Saints' only doubt with a leg injury. If it's as close as their Challenge Cup tie, which Rovers won 8-3, his accuracy would be sorely missed.

BOXING



CABLE: Up-and-down career

John Rodda

Another battle of Hastings

Jimmy Cable and Prince Rodney are two British fighters whose talents, by the current TV financial yardstick, deserve more rewards than have come their way in the past couple of years. They have been due to meet for a long time, but chicken pox and promotional wrangles, among other events, have kept them apart until today.

This afternoon at the Pier Pavilion, Hastings, they will fight for the British light-middleweight title in a Frank Warren promotion predictably billed as "The Second Battle of Hastings". The championship bout will be televised and shown by ITV in World of Sport.

Cable knows, briefly, what life can be like at the top, for he has been involved in some courageous ups and downs. In his British title fight with Nick Wiltshire a couple of years ago, he showed much bravery and skill against an opponent with a heavier punch; he was toppled dramatically by Buster Drayton of the United States and then quickly won the European title, setting off the four three times to stop Said Skouma of France.

That ought to have set him on course for some lucrative contests, but he immediately lost the title to George Steinhauser of Germany. At 27 he still has plenty of fighting years left, but a lot of activity last year may well have taken its toll in the question of reflex action.

Rodney won this title in 1983 when he stopped Jimmy Batten in six rounds, but an injury in training kept him away from fighting for over a year. On his return last September, he stopped Cameron Lithgow in 10 hard rounds and has not boxed since. Too much of the wrong kind of fighting, Cable's problem, must be set against Rodney's comparative inactivity, and I suspect from that equation will emerge a new champion — Rodney.

Robert Armstrong looks at today's climax of the Second Division promotion contest

Frantic four wait on City

SOCCER

GROUCHO MARX's remark that he "would not wish to join any club that would have me as a member" appears to have been taken too much to heart by Manchester City. Since defeating one of their promotion rivals, Portsmouth, a fortnight ago City have dithered over the task of making the final push that would take them back into the First Division after a two-year absence.

The consequence of City's goalless draw with Oldham and 3-2 defeat by Notts County on Monday is that a total of five clubs are involved today in the most intriguing climax to the intriguing climax to the promotion battle for years, with Oxford and Birmingham already promoted City are joined by Portsmouth, Blackburn, Brighton and Leeds in a final shoot-out for third place that could well hinge on goal difference.

The blunt truth is that none of these clubs have displayed the consistency that merits a place in the top drawer, though some observers believe Leeds have sufficient quality to enhance the First Division. City will go up if they beat Charlton at Maine Road but anything less than three points would open the way for any one of the pursuers to edge in from behind.

Billy McNeill's plans have been badly hit by a combination of suspension and injury which has deprived him of half the City team. Both his centre-backs, Reid and McCarty, are suspended while Baker, Wilson and his leading scorer, Smith, are all injured. Even Melrose and Tolmie, who came out of hospital on Monday after treatment for an inflamed ulcer, are only half-fit. In contrast Charlton, who won at Maine Road last season, are unchanged.

If City lose, then Portsmouth will return to the First Division for the first time since 1959 if they win



McNeill: Has lost half his team

at Huddersfield. The former England captain, Gerry Francis, who may replace the suspended Dillon, is in a squad of 12 despite having played only two games for Portsmouth. Stanley takes over from the injured full-back, Handman, while Huddersfield give late fitness tests to Cowling and Pugh.

We are very relaxed and confident because the pressure is on Manchester City," said the Portsmouth manager, Alan Ball. "Whatever happens we intend to finish the season in style and the players are in a perfect frame of mind. Our 8,000 travelling fans will turn it into a home game for us and that will be fantastic."

Leeds will be unchanged for the seventh successive match for their visit to Birmingham, who could still take the Second Division championship in front of Oxford. The Yorkshire side travel in view of the Blues' unconvincing home record. Birmingham are again likely to be without Bremner, who has a hip injury, but their leading scorer, Geddis, is expected to return after missing two games with a thigh strain.

Like Leeds, Blackburn will also be unchanged for their game against relegated Wolverhampton at Ewood Park. "I know we are third favourites behind City and Portsmouth, but the red-hot favourites do not always win," said the Rovers' manager, Bobby Saxton, yesterday.

day. Blackburn include their two current Northern Ireland internationals, Brotherston and Quinn.

Brighton's former England striker, Worthington, returns in place of Ferguson for the visit of Sheffield United to the Goldstone Ground. The Seagulls, unbeaten at home for nearly six months, expect their biggest crowd of the season for a game they must win to stand a side to be reckoned with despite being without key players like Wilson, Gattling and Ryan, said Brighton's manager Chris Cattlin.

Meanwhile, any one of half-a-dozen clubs could join Stoke and Sunderland as the third to be relegated from the First Division.

David Williams, Bristol Rovers' 29-year-old player-manager, yesterday resigned as manager but will continue to take charge of the team until the end of the season. Williams wants to carry on as a player, and is likely to seek a transfer.



SOCCER DIARY

Patrick Barclay

Top of the hat parade

I ASKED for help in understanding why large numbers of bob-hats, most noticeably in the distinctive green of Celtic, had appeared amid several English First Division crowds. It seems that a boy of 10 could have told me.

The consensus emerging from a mountain of mail is expressed by Master McBride, of Liverpool, who says: "It's because they sell them and they are different."

Not for young McBride the fears expressed by an Economist article, which asserts simplistically that Everton fans are wearing Celtic green, and Liverpool fans Rangers blue, and wonders if Merseyside has imported a sectarian taint from Glasgow. "The police say there's no more than a passing fad," it reports. "Let's hope they are right."

Some correspondents are worried, though they tend to be Scots with an understanding of the subtleties of sectarianism. Willie Gracie, a truly non-sectarian Rangers fan from Surrey, says: "If only it could be explained to these people about the heartbreak involved in religious differences."

He may be comforted to hear from Phil Domingo, a Liverpoolian exiled in Northampton, that Merseyside's footballing divisions have helped reduce sectarianism to a negligible level. "I don't mind my marrying a Catholic, as long as he's not an Evertonian."

The widely-held notion that Everton are a Catholic club and Liverpool Protestant is unsupported by evidence, or present. Many Everton fans wear hats that are half green, but so do Liverpool fans.

Even the "Rangers! Celtic!" chants heard for many years on the Kop, and other places, is seen as Domingo as signifying a kind of unity that says: "If I wasn't lucky enough to be supporting Liverpool, guess what I'd be doing. Let The Economist pick the bones out of that."

Kevin Dunn of Everton explains the hats thus: "A few years ago the wearing of scarves became uncool among the 'scallies' and others who formed the backbone of away support. Then, about four years ago, it became acceptable to wear colours as a derby games, with bobble-hats the most popular item. They really took off towards the end of last season.

"With the scallies' propensity for wanting to be different, the progression to Celtic and Rangers was natural. But as with all trends it quickly caught on. Now the trick is to come up with the most unusual bobble hat. At Liverpool games, I've seen some Juventus, German, even some smarties even wearing Aberdeen or Hearts hats."

Benjamin Raphael at Hamar, Norway

Adams retains European title

JUDO

NEIL ADAMS yesterday recharged both his own and Britain's confidence by winning the European light-middleweight title, for the third successive year, at the 25th national championships in Hamar, Norway.

When Adams tied on his black belt yesterday he knew that many people were expecting his defeat in the Olympic final to mark the start of a decline in his eminence. He was also aware that Britain's first three entries in these championships had also not mustered a win between them in their five fights.

Throughout his career the 26-year-old Adams has seemed at his best when he is not the outstanding favourite for the gold medals: he flourishes when he is just one of the fancied competitors. Yesterday reinforced that opinion. Competing in a particularly strong category — West Germany's Olympic champion, Frank Wieneke failed to finish in the top three — Adams fought with his most proficient savagery.

He looked a class above everyone else, just as he did when he won the title in 1981. In the final he always dominated the tempo of the bout against Poland's former European champion, Waldemar Legien. A slick hand throw

was enough to give Adams the decisive knock-down and his fifth European gold medal.

Adams had reached the final with one of the most technically versatile performances even he has produced in his 10 years of senior competition. His opponent, Vladimir Chestakov of the Soviet Union, had earlier arm-locked France's Michel Nowak, an Olympic bronze medal winner, but Adams attacked from the start.

He tried a swift stomach throw and then wheeled Chestakov to the mat with an immaculate hand throw. But the biggest surprise was to come: as the pair tumbled to the mat Adams feinted for his famous arm-lock. The Russian moved his arms to guard against it, but Adams swiftly whipped his legs round his opponent's neck and strangled him to submission.

"I've tried that in practice, but now it's coming off in international events," Adams said afterwards.

He had used this move successfully in his previous bout against the Yugoslavian Filip Lesack, whereas in his first round contest against Switzerland's Olivier Schaffner he has used his more familiar arm-lock.

It is the ability to widen the scope of techniques that marks a great champion, and Adams yesterday reinforced his claim to this distinction.

CYCLING

Charles Burgess

Lucrative twist to Millar's tale

A landmark in British cycling will be reached tomorrow in Salamanca when, barring accident or disaster, Robert Millar, a frail-looking 26-year-old, who grew up in the back streets of Glasgow, will become the first Briton to win one of the world's big stage-races, the Tour of Spain.

After yesterday's individual time trial in and around the town of Salamanca, an industrial town near Madrid and the birthplace of Cervantes, there is nothing to stop him. Don Quixote was a pursuer of lost causes and, in the past, the English-speaking assaults on the glamorous European professional circuit have often seemed that way too. But now Millar is about to change all that.

Yesterday's 42-kilometre 17th stage represented the last race in the event for the second-placed Colombian rider Francisco Rodriguez to make up the 13 seconds overall time difference between him and the Scotsman, a margin that had been established last Sunday in Andorra.

Francisco Rodriguez, riding two minutes in front of Millar, was able to cut only three seconds into that lead, finishing second with Millar third. The Spaniard, Pello Ruiz Cabestany won the stage and remains the favourite to win the Tour, and the rest of his Peugeot team should be able to protect the 10-second lead on today's 200 kilometre stage.

His television commercials over the winter for Kellogg's Start cereal have probably done even more to push him into the public eye, and victory tomorrow will greatly increase his wealth.

For his 19-day ride around Spain he will win only £5,000 and by tradition that will be distributed among his teammates, the men who have worked hard in attempting to keep him fresh in the bunch at least until the foot of the mountains, when they have blossomed. His true bonuses will be earned from an enhanced contract, with Peugeot, from the larger fees he will be able to command for ride in advertisements and from an increase in his worth to advertisers. His income should now rise to over £100,000 a year.



Today's 200 kilometre stage, which includes three tough mountain climbs, and tomorrow's flat 175-kilometre procession into Salamanca.

Millar, who stands just 5ft 7in tall and wears permed hair, is an unlikely British success story. He has been blessed with the perfect frame for mountain climbing and the Tour of Spain is planned for the goats, preferably their own.

He took the leader's yellow jersey last weekend in the Tour de France, his win there last year helped him to take the King of the Mountains title. With national recognition and the realisation, even on this side of the Channel, that here was someone special.

It has been said that both Great Britain and England would not be formidable without their world class goalkeeper, Ian Taylor. But John Hurst would be the first choice for most national teams and has a rare chance to prove his worth, with Taylor injured.

On the form shown in recent training weekends, England seem likely to field a different right wing combination to Great Britain, Cliff and Shaun. The latter, having gained preference to Shaw and Leman.

Germany have "retired" six of their players since the Olympics.

Bob Cattrall (Hounslow), the Olympic half back, has withdrawn, and the first of 11 matches against sides ranked in the world's top six. The England team is of similar strength to the Great Britain side that won the Olympic bronze. Like Great Britain, they are now playing the same 5-2-2 formation. Indeed, several of the players likely to be in the starting line-up were in the Olympic team. The other four are Hurst, Sherwin, Faulkner and Cliff.

OBITUARY

John Rodda

Athletics stalwart of crucial era

ADRIAAN PAULEN, the Dutchman who led international athletics in the crucial years following the Montreal Olympics, has died during an operation on a broken hip at the age of 82.

The shining bald head, the rufous glasses and the rapid shuffling walk were the outward eccentric marks of a man passionate in his devotion to athletics. When Lord Exeter, the last of the aristocrats to control the International Amateur Athletic Federation, stepped down as president in 1976, it required a man of Paulen's energy to set off the brake gently as athletics gathered speed for changes brought by the commercial world.

Paulen decided in 1981 to stand down rather than face what he thought would be a humiliating defeat by Primo Nebiolo of Italy in the presidential contest. In fact, Paulen misjudged the number of his admirers. He was elected to succeed Lord Exeter.

I recall him bounding on to the track in Belgrade in 1973 asking a young woman competitor to show him the contents of her equipment bag. Paulen's sharp eye across his suspicion and he discovered the competitor was illegally using a two-way radio to communicate with her coach.

He had great compassion for the competitor, a quality which led him to make one of the biggest mistakes of his career — it was his casting vote as president which allowed several competitors caught using electronic aids, a banned substance, to compete again after a life ban was amended.

He competed in the Games of 1920 and 1924 — in the latter he beat Eric Liddell in a heat of the 400 metres — but never won a medal. He became the first of over 40 world record-breakers on the Bislett track in Oslo. He also took part in eight Monte Carlo rallies and rode in the 1986 Dutch motor cycle grand prix. He was still riding his motor bike well into his 60s.



BRIDGE

Rixi Markus

THE Sullivan Powell Challenge, which used to be known as the Sobranie Challenge, is the United Kingdom club championship for non-expert teams, and attracts many newcomers to tournament bridge. Here is a deal from the 1985 Northern Area final on which the declarer had the king of hearts and had noticed before among inexperienced players.

Dealer North; East-west vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q76
♥ A3
♦ A934
♠ 1075

EAST
♦ A32
♥ 105
♦ K97
♠ K97

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1N 2N 3N 4N
2D(1) 3D 4D 5D

(1) Showing diamonds and a major suit.

West found the good lead of the three of clubs, won by East's king and ruffed the club continuation and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen of diamonds. He then realised, rather belatedly, that he needed to establish the hearts. He led the jack of hearts, which brought the nine from West and the two from East. East won the heart continuation with the ace, but instead of giving his partner a heart ruff, he switched to a small spade. When West won with the king and played another club, declarer was in trouble. He ruffed the club and played a spade, but the defensive communications were intact: a heart ruff and the final club were enough to seal South's fate.

one club would give him his game contract with very little difficulty.

The Northern final was won by the Hull Bridge Club. The vital importance of trump control is illustrated by this hand from the Scottish final.

Dealer South; game all.

NORTH
♦ Q4
♥ 1076
♦ A93
♠ 105

EAST
♦ A32
♥ 105
♦ K97
♠ K97

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1N 2N 3N 4N
2D(1) 3D 4D 5D

(1) Showing diamonds and a major suit.

West found the good lead of the three of clubs, won by East's king and ruffed the club continuation and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen of diamonds. He then realised, rather belatedly, that he needed to establish the hearts. He led the jack of hearts, which brought the nine from West and the two from East. East won the heart continuation with the ace, but instead of giving his partner a heart ruff, he switched to a small spade. When West won with the king and played another club, declarer was in trouble. He ruffed the club and played a spade, but the defensive communications were intact: a heart ruff and the final club were enough to seal South's fate.

West made the unfortunate lead of the eight of diamonds. However, declarer did not seem to realise how lucky he had been that the defenders had not attacked his weakness in the black suits. He won the first trick with the king of diamonds, cashed the ace and king of hearts and played a second diamond towards dummy. West did not need another chance. He ruffed the second round of diamonds and switched to a club, leaving declarer with only eight tricks. It is normally correct to leave master trump at large in a defender's hand, for to attempt to remove it will often surrender a vital tempo. However, there are exceptions to this general rule, and this deal illustrates one of them. If South plays a third round of trumps when the queen falls to drop in two rounds, he will be able to enjoy dummy's diamonds without interruption: five hearts, four diamonds and

FIXTURES

(Kick-off 3.0 p.m. unless stated)

CANON LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Liverpool v. Aston Villa	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Leeds v. Leicester	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Leeds v. Leicester	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Leeds v. Leicester	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Leeds v. Leicester	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

SECOND DIVISION

Birmingham v. Leeds	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Blackburn v. Wolverhampton	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Brighton v. Sheff Wed. Utd.	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Cardiff v. Oldham	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.
Crystal Palace v. Grimsby	Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Full-time v. Notts County

Huddersfield v. Portsmouth

Manchester City v. Charlton

Oxford Utd. v. Burnley

Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Sheff Wed. v. West Ham Utd.

Derby v. Peterborough (2.15)

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough (2.15)

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough (2.15)

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough (2.15)

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

Derby v. Peterborough

WEEKEND SPORT: THREE

SPORT IN BRIEF

England's shining spirit

HOCKEY: England's young and untied women's squad took on the powerful Olympic medal winners West Germany yesterday, narrowly losing 2-2, writes Janet Ruff at Mülheim. The reputations of several England youngsters were enhanced, with Burroughs outstanding in goal and Gocher, a second half substitute, at last showing her true form.

England made a sensational start with a second minute goal, Bennett's inch perfect pass splitting the German defence for Woodward to slam the ball home. West Germany responded with goals from Roth and Moser only for England to equalise in the second half through Kim Gordon. But the joy was short lived as Gaby Appel scored the winner.

EQUESTRIANISM: Sue Pountney, 29, from Uttoxeter, became one of the few riders to record a second success in the BSFA Women's National Championship, now sponsored by Tootsie, with a repeat of her 1983 victory on Ned Kelly VI at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday, writes John Kerr. Only seven from 38 reached the jump-off and, at first, Janet Hunter and Lissamarrow looked like giving Scotland a rare success with a fast and faultless round. But Miss Pountney got a great gallop from her 13-year-old for the only other clear, with almost half a second to spare.

TENNIS: Leighton Alfred of Wales and Sussie Mair, of Scotland, both went out of the LTA spring tennis circuit at Bournemouth yesterday. Miss Mair was dismissed with little effort 6-1, 6-0 by Diane van Rensburg, of South Africa, but Alfred held out for two hours 35 minutes before going down 7-6, 6-6, 7-5 to Peter Johnston, of Australia.

Johnston now faces in today's final Peter Lundgren, of Sweden, who beat Simon Youl of Australia, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5, while Miss van Rensburg's opponent in the final is Barbara Romano, of Italy, who beat Elna Reinach, of South Africa, 7-6, 6-3.

WIRE COURT JOURNALISM: (Continued from page 1) ... (text continues with details of the wire court journalism section)

ATHLETICS: Craig Virgin, John Tuttle, and Paul Cummings will lead an American challenge for the second Gaymans 10 kilometre inter-city series road race at Cardiff tomorrow, writes Stephen Bierley. Tuttle was third in the opening race in Glasgow last Sunday behind Britain's Dave Clark and Jon Richards who are both expected to run again.

Todd Bennett, the European indoor 400 metres champion from Southampton, goes for the hat-trick when he competes for his home town in the GB-British Athletics Union invitational match at Enfield today. Bennett competes in the 100 and 200 metres and 4 x 400 metres relay.

SAILING: Chris Law won all his five races on the first day of the British Open match-racing championship for the Royal Lymington Cup. If he survives a protest from his race with the defending champion, Harold Cudmore of Ireland, writes Bob Fisher. Gary Johnson of the US will join him on five wins if he wins his protest against his countryman Tim Stern from the first round.

RUGBY LEAGUE: The British Amateur Rugby Association team's tour of South Australia next year may be extended to include matches in Tonga and the Cook Islands. Tonga's King Tuakalo Tupou IV is supported by the Sydney club, St George. A decision on the invitation is expected next week.

Evening racing STRATFORD

6.00 (2nd race) 1. BURNSTOWN LADY, 2. ... (text continues with racing results)

Matthew Engel at Taunton sees Thomson in full cry

Ashes warning

CRICKET

THIS MAY be the right moment to temper the widespread perception that England can regain the Ashes this summer without much trouble.

The Australians showed on Wednesday and Thursday that they can bat. Yesterday they proved how well they can bowl when they dismissed Somerset for 125 to win their opening first class match in England by 235 runs. Thomson, the 19-year-old left hander, took 10 wickets for 44 runs, four for 11.

He only thing the Australians cannot do at present is catch. Six chances went to yesterday's Roebuck, who went on to carry his bat as put down on 10, 11 and 12. They still won with the bowlers to spare. You have to be impressed that Roebuck looks as though Australia are going to have the three fast bowlers in the Test series ahead of Thomson, despite all Border's pre-tour banter about what a good medium pacer he is. These days, looked very much quainter than that to the Somerset batsmen. The sight of Thomson, who has evidently taken years of his. Thomson himself said he had never bowled better in England.

At his figures were made last night at the expense of 20-year-old McDermott, 14 years his junior and clearly something special. He extracted pace and bounce from a

pitch that had produced 952 runs on the first two days. Four of the misses came off his bowling, three of them by Wellham at third slip. The ball after Wellham had put Roebuck down for the second time would have been a catch to gully had he been in closer. At this point, McDermott looked down the pitch at Roebuck and said something along the lines of Lawson's "Christ, do you play for the first team regular?" I dread to think what he said to Wellham.

Roebuck stayed on to play an innings of decidedly first team character and determination on a day when only two other Somerset batsmen emerged with credit or double figures. You have to remember that Rose had a broken arm and could not bat, but you also have to remember that Lawson, the No 1 first bowler, was ill and that Gilbert, no slouch either, has yet to appear.

The England batsmen might yet find that the memories of Garner and Marshall are not as far behind them as they thought. Holland trimmed some of his leg breaks too, and England did not have to worry about that last summer.

Somerset's theoretical job yesterday was to score 350 in 5 1/2 hours, or a minimum of 80 overs. After four overs, they were 15 for two, plus Rose, both Poplewell and Gilchrist appeared to be beaten for internationals. "Not good enough," Border said.

Bridgwater, made up for his first innings' drought by resisting for 15 overs against the still-new ball.

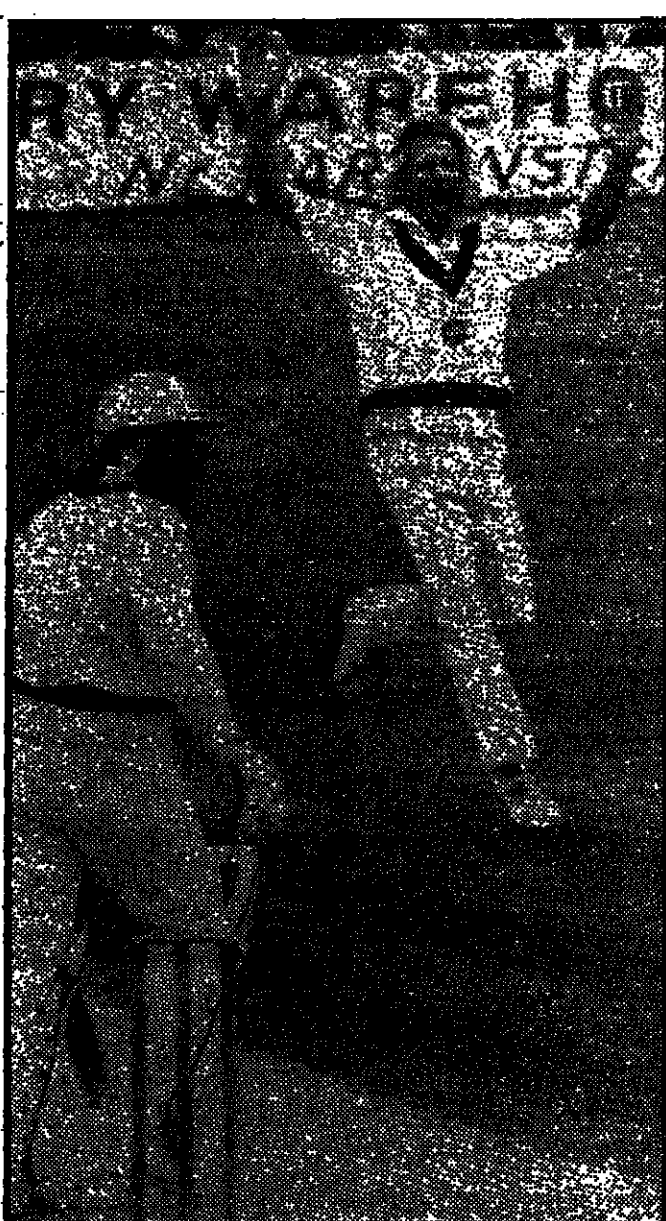
But none of the Somerset players, except Roebuck, suggested permanence. McDermott went off and Thomson was granted the downwind end. And, though the official Australian players found it too cold for catching, the substitutes made up for them.

Ray Phillips, deputising for the other Phillips as wicketkeeper, took the first of his four catches to remove Holland. Botham came in. Four balls and one off drive to the boundary later he tried to drive off the back foot at Thomson and only gloved it towards Phillips. Botham departed.

There was still Marks, and he played a vigorous, almost jaunty innings of 48 in 54 minutes. Eventually Phillips did for him as well. The rest followed very quickly. Holland and Boon finishing the innings off with two quite decent catches. Roebuck became the first Somerset batsman since Frank Lee in 1934 to carry his bat against a touring team.

After making allowances for weather that would be unwelcome in Sydney or Brisbane, Border denounced his fielders, not for the first time. Someone has worked out that at home this last season, the Australians put down 58 catches in Tests and internationals. "Not good enough," Border said.

The team will be working on it at Worcester this weekend.



UP IN ARMS... Thomson sees off Botham

Pat Fitzpatrick at Edgbaston

Another Steele comes to rescue

An asterisk he is not but, like his elder brother, David, John Steele knows how to occupy a pitch. He remained an immovable and mostly motionless object for a long time, but yesterday he was chiefly responsible for denying Warwickshire the victory that for a lengthy part of the day appeared to be theirs.

When Youngs departed leg before to Wall in mid-afternoon, Glamorgan have still needed 82 runs to avoid an innings defeat. Glamorgan was already taking 100.

He crawled into double figures by taking on average a single every eight minutes. He had a boundary would have been anathema to him, and by the time he pushed forward aggressively onto 200 often and had his stumps rattled by the admirable Small 20 runs had been granted. Glamorgan, nevertheless, were still not entirely safe at that point. The overs were beginning to evaporate but if Clifford had held on to a chance offered by Davies in the half-century of four chances, Steele could still have been in with ease for they would have required only 20 runs from 12 overs.

But Davies then cleverly fished for a strike for four overs and when the last man,

Barwick, eventually had to face Ferreira, he simply increased Warwickshire's frustration by steering the medium-paced bowler through the slips for four.

Warwickshire did eventually remove Barwick with the first ball of the 17th over and that, we thought, was that. On the assumption that three overs are lost between innings, the allocation of 20 overs appeared to be used up, but by some calculation, the mind of mere mortals to understand, the umpires decreed that Warwickshire were left with two overs in which to score 37.

It seemed that Warwickshire might achieve this unlikely task when Thomas opened with a single, but then Humpage thumped a couple of boundaries, but then Humpage was bowled and the task proved beyond Ferreira and Amis.



STEELE: Immovable object

Dilip Rao at Lord's

Crawlers' field day

THE MANNER in which Kent approached the last day's play of their match against Middlesex at Lord's yesterday went a long way towards damaging the image of county cricket.

With a pre-lunch declaration when Clive Bailey was within close range of his century—Middlesex set Kent 324 from 77 overs or 250 minutes, which was not ungenerous considering that Norman Cowans' fitness was in doubt. In fact, he left the field with a pulled muscle after blowing only five cracks over.

Kent, who had also been extremely defensive in the field, in the morning, only spun. Middlesex's challenge but showed complete disregard for the shivering spectators. When had light mercifully stopped play at 5.00 pm, Kent had 12 for one from 67 overs, of which no less than 50 were bowled by the spinners, Emburey and Edmunds.

In the last half hour before the end, Kent scored a mere nine runs from 14 overs, earlier in the morning, the only batsman dismissed in 190 minutes' play, went through 35 minutes without adding a run. Not to be outdone, Chris Tavare at one stage faced 53 balls without making a scoring stroke.

David Lacey at the Oval

Thomas hurries out Lancashire for 77

Surrey's hunt for an opening county by a quicker delivery from Watkinson that removed his off stump when he had made 96, but Surrey had scored so rapidly that they were able to declare 20 minutes before lunch, setting Lancashire to get 311 in 79 overs.

An impressive and hostile spell of left-arm fast bowling by Thomas, who took four for 20 in nine overs, broke the back and much of the spirit of Lancashire's resistance. Smart close catching and the accuracy of the spinners did the rest.

Only Ormrod endured, with a stoical 16 runs in 83 minutes, and Allott, the one other Lancashire batsman to reach double figures, compounded their embarrassment by finishing his innings with a last-ball duck.

On Thursday Lancashire had saved the follow-on with something to spare, but they paid heavily for dropping Jesty at slip just before the close. Yesterday morning the former Hampshire batsman plundered their attack in a belligerent innings that started as a piece of controlled aggression but eventually became a slog pure and simple.

Jesty hit 67 of the 83 runs that came off 14 overs in the first hour including a six, a four and another six driven successively to the four corners. He was denied a

first hundred for his new county by a quicker delivery from Watkinson that removed his off stump when he had made 96, but Surrey had scored so rapidly that they were able to declare 20 minutes before lunch, setting Lancashire to get 311 in 79 overs.

As Fowler confidently cover drove Thomas for four and a return catch from Ormrod popped in and out of Monkhouse's hands one began to doubt Surrey's capacity to force a victory. But Thomas, racing in from the Vauxhall end with the air of a man who felt a point needed to be made, soon banished such idle thoughts.

Thomas was difficult to pick up in the poor light and Fowler was only half-forward to the first ball of his second over when he lost his off stump. Two deliveries later O'Shaughnessy was lbw on the front foot to one that kept low.

Son after lunch Fairbrother was unable to resist pulling a short ball from Monkhouse to the square leg. Abraham, flashing at Thomas, was superbly caught at third slip by Monkhouse, leaping high to his left.

Jefferies gave Thomas his fourth wicket with a catch behind and after Ormrod, producing at Pooch had fallen in the leg trap and the end was not long delayed.

GOLF

David Davies at Moortown

Greens leave Brown blue

THE CONTRASTING rigours of the American and European tours, and the way to overcome them, were vividly demonstrated in the second round of the Car Club Plan International at Moortown, Leeds, yesterday.

Sandy Lyle, who leads with a two under par total of 128, played his way placidly over the early season greens that represent a potential minefield to the more sensitive souls. Ken Brown, on the other hand, like Lyle a recent returnee from the US circuit, was tormented almost beyond endurance.

"It's embarrassing," he said afterwards, "you could miss from almost anywhere over there. We are supposed to be entertaining the spectators and they surely haven't come here to see professionals miss two-foot putts."

"I know it's the time of year and I'm not blaming anybody, but we could do with some help. There's a short hole out there where they've got us off the back of the tee and the flag at the back of the green. I had to take a driver."

Brown had to baffle the 17th to make the cut, which fell at 146, but appeared to be less than delighted at the prospect of two more days on what he clearly regards as dubious, at best, greens.

Meanwhile, Lyle, in his unfurled way, was using a new putter which had helped him not to three-putt on any of his first 36 holes. "Believe me," he said, "that's quite good. Hitting a three-foot putt is quite an achievement this week."

Lyle did, in fact, miss five putts of less than 10 feet during his 67, and in the case of most that would mean an opportunity missed. Lyle's putting, however, is a fragile thing, and especially when compared to a long game which this year has been hugely impressive.

"I'm getting the reward for all the hard work I've put in in America," he said. "I'm getting it, and I'm practicing every day since January 10, and while it may not have given me more length it has certainly given me more control." There is a detectable growing confidence in him, too. He wants to win the Open Championship and sees Royal St George's as the right kind of course for him.

Des Smyth, one behind Lyle, is struggling to overcome the loss of the driver with which he has played for nine years, with which he won all his tournaments, and which has simply disintegrated.

He was two under par with four to play, but had to hole from the 15th green, chip in from 25 yards after a bad drive at the 16th, both times to save par. But he finally dropped a shot at the last, bunkering his second, and seeing his fourth green, he managed to rim the hole before electing to stay on the surface.



CHESS

Leonard Barden

THE Greater London Council is staging a British bid to stage the controversial Kasparov-Karpov rematch in September at the Royal Festival Hall complex on the South Bank. FIDE, the international chess federation, announced last week that they had received offers from London, Marseilles, and the USSR to host the series, which was stopped in February after a record five-month marathon when Karpov led 5-3.

The GLC's late intervention saved the British campaign after a major industrial recession pulled out. Authorized by the council's sports and recreation committee, the bid comprises a £200,000 prize fund together with hotel, venue, and administrative costs. The new match is likely to be limited to 24 or 30 games but should still last more than two months.

Marseilles has offered a £500,000 prize fund, easily topping both London and the USSR. The French intervention came as a great surprise to FIDE sources, and also expected proposals from Barcelona and Belgrade. While both London and Moscow have staged a fine array of world class events, Marseilles has never organised even an international tournament of note and this must diminish its credibility. However, FIDE have already awarded the 1985 world chess tournament to Montpellier, about 100 miles west along the Mediterranean coast and also without previous experience.

The Soviet bid is, like London's for £300,000, the minimum stipulated by FIDE rules. In practice K and K would be likely to be paid in roubles after some heavy deductions, but probably occurred following the February match end. There were rumours then that Campomanes promised the grandmasters their return would have a hard time of it. In the opinion in the USSR following FIDE's bid announcement is that Russia will once more stage the match.

Moscow is favoured despite Karpov's recent losses, especially there again when the last series was devoted to the suburban Sports Hotel. The Kasparov camp, still sore over the coincidence of "technical time-outs" on August 16, and the Chequers, are pressing for a different site such as Minsk. World opinion that the USSR Chess Federation put on undue pressure at the end favouring Karpov is a factor which could sway Campomanes towards the London and Marseilles offers.

A strong plus in the GLC's favour is that it has already staged three successful grandmaster tournaments at County Hall in association with stockbrokers Phillips & Drew. Karpov won two of these events and said at the end of his last visit that he would be ready to play for the world title in London. Kasparov has good memories of the city following his world semi-final victory over Korchnoi and his plus score in last year's USSR World match.

The GLC is also backing weekend chess for ordinary Londoners by making County Hall available for the Lambeth congress on August 23-24. The Chess and Chess quers congress on August 30-September 1. These events, together with the Lloyds Bank international open on August 21-22 at the Park Lane Hotel, add up to a festival which should attract many overseas visitors if a world series immediately follows. There were some fears after the FIDE announcement that London's bid might be stopped by new government powers to veto GLC grants over £100,000. But sports sponsorship is not the same as a grant, and the London Chess and Chess quers have written approval for their match campaign from a very senior government source. Let us hope that Campomanes makes the right choice.

Kasparov's first published game, where he already shows at the age of 10, the skills to crush an opponent by use of extra moves.

Gary Weinstein (later Kasparov) - V. Vasiukha

French Defence (Rakn 1974-4)			
1	N-K4 P-K3	2	P-Q4 P-Q4
1	P-K2 N-QB3	4	K-N3 N-N3
5	P-K3	6	P-N3 E-Q2
7	KxN KxS	8	N-N2 N-N2
9	P-K3	10	P-K3 P-K3
11	E-Q2 P-QN3	12	P-S2 E-N2
13	P-K3 Q-Q2	14	N-N1 E-N3
15	P-K3 Q-N4	16	N-N2 Q-N2 ch
17	QxQ Q-N4	18	KxP Q-N4
19	P-K3	20	P-K3
21	P-KN3 P-N3	22	P-N3 E-N2
23	Q-B1 P-N2	24	E-N3 E-Q2
25	P-KN4 P-P ch	26	KxP E-N2
27	P-N4 P-N3	28	P-N4 K-Q2
29	P-N3	30	P-N3 P-N3
31	E-B1 E-N1	32	E-N2 P-B1
33	E-B4 E-D1	34	E-K4 E-N2-S2
35	P-B6 P-N2	36	P-Q3 P-P ch
37	KxP P-N3	38	P-N2 ch E-N1

DIARY

SECURITY at the Scottish Ties Conference in Perth grew more manic as the week progressed. One conspicuous feature of it was that the private security firm hired by Central Office made policemen on duty in the hall. Another was that they detained a fresh-faced young delegate who turned up in the Station Hotel without a conference pass for nearly 15 minutes while waiting for Ann Hall, the Scottish Tories' secretary, to identify him. Yes, she confirmed, this is Mr John Selwyn Gummer.

*SEVENTY-FOUR per cent say NO—GLC poster. Added underneath in London ECI: "That's because 28 per cent got pregnant."

THE Police Federation is forever striving to make a policeman's lot a happier one. Thus Cumbria and West Midlands delegates to the forthcoming federation conference are seeking an extra allowance for handling of fingerprints "badly decomposed, mutilated or burnt bodies." Dorset delegates are not so sure. They wish to delete the word "badly." They may have a point.

LAST MONTH Denis Healey topped up in Penthouse. This month it's Captain Mark Phillips—the man and his cars. "Cars," we learn, "are his second love." No, horses are the first, but "his good lady" likes cars. "We both went to Silverstone," Capt Phillips tells the porno mag. "She covered 25 laps and enjoyed herself very much."

THE National Union of Students, pondering how best to contribute to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal, has decided to clear out its basement of stocks of old tee-shirts from past campaigns and pack them on to the famine soup. One must forgive any bewilderment as the recipients pull on the garments proclaiming, "Support the Miners!" and "Jobs for Youth. Give us a Future!"

FLUTTERERS will be interested in Lord's odds on Mrs T departing as Prime Minister—5-1 says she goes before the end of this year and 3-1 by the end of next year.

TERRY DICKS, MP for Rye and Haveringham, takes a strong line on football hooliganism. So he will be watching some interest in the forthcoming conference of his fellow Billingham Tory councillor, Mr Roger Johns. Mr Johns was one of two Tottenham fans arrested by Newcastle police and charged with a breach of public order following a recent Bank Holiday clash with Newcastle United. He appears in court on May 28.

BLACK sections are, of course, a matter of principle even if the penalties for joining them are severe. All the same, Deptford GLP has no plans to form a local black section just yet. Getting rid of Mr John Silkin, explains a mole, is also a matter of principle.

ANY ALLIANCE hopefuls for Brecon and Radnor should bear in mind the advice given to a young aspiring Liberal politician back in 1980. "Forget it," said the then party secretary-general, Hugh Jones. "It's just a matter of time before you're taken all your time and effort." Young Simon Hughes took his advice and settled forth from the Old Kent Road instead.

BRITISH friends of Charles Krauthammer stamped to assure Diary readers that he really exists. In which case it is really most misleading of him to pen Germany-bashing articles in Time. He has only himself to blame.

BRIAN SEDGEMORE, Labour MP for Hackney South, is a bit of a fellow. So he is, in fact, that he wrote to the Hackney Gazette last week acclaiming the Labour candidate's success in a ward byelection. "Hail Glad Confront Morn. Neger Again!" his letter ended shortly after the Liberal candidate's convincing victory was announced.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI may have caused a spot of trouble for Mr Marcus Fox, Tory MP for Shipley. The firm's annual report prints a picture of Mr Fox standing on the Commons terrace in conversation with a "human resources" consultant for the Hay Group, a subsidiary of Saatchi's, together with a bit of blurb about the services Hay can offer MPs. The Privileges Committee take a very dim view of any taken within the Palace of Westminster for commercial ends. Mr Fox only vaguely remembers being snapped and pleads not guilty.

Alan Rusbridger



From New England to California, from Florida to Oregon, I never found a vandalised public telephone. . . Picture at Dulles Airport, Washington, by Neil Libbert

HAROLD JACKSON discovers a growing threat to civil rights on returning to his native land

Crossed lines in the pursuit of liberty

IT MAY be no more than the illusion of the returned exile, but the howl of police sirens appears to shatter the peace of English suburbia much more frequently than I remember when I last lived here in 1978.

It seems that almost every time we go along the local high street a police car flashes by with horns screaming—and that others combine the drama throughout the sleeping hours. Is this really the shape of the Iron-Lady's Britain (which we have not previously inhabited) or are we falling into the cross-Atlantic trap that has maddened us when we were living on its western side?

Virtually all our family and friends assumed that normality in Washington was life under siege. It was, in their eyes, a toss-up whether we were gunned down by the neighbourhood mugger or by the police pursuing him. English visitors were plainly surprised by the tranquillity of the American capital. As my wife explained, Washington is about the size of Birmingham but lacks its excitement.

In fact the only personal violence I have suffered in the past seven years came last week on the London Underground when a drunk started punching me. For what he thought was a good reason. Statistically, of course, the stereotype is right—the US murder rate far exceeds anything in Europe. But it still does not match the picture projected by imported American television—or firmly accepted on the Clapham omnibus.

In reality, I have returned to my native land to develop a far greater sense of personal threat than was ever induced while I was in Washington, Denver, Los Angeles, or even New York. It

is a complicated issue and I am not for a moment arguing that the United States does not suffer badly from excessive violence and social insecurity. But this phenomenon is not quite as it is perceived nor is it the nub of the argument.

As a middle-aged white you actually stand a far higher chance of falling victim to the abnormal standard of American driving than of any other type of violence. More Americans are annually mown down by cars than were ever killed in a decade in Vietnam, or are drilled by Saturday-night specials. No one put up memorials to them, or philosophises on the scars their death has left on society.

In reality, the victims of violent crime come less from the middle-Americans who scream about law and order, than from the grim inner-city ghettos. A recent study by the US Justice Department found that the risk of being murdered is six times higher for American blacks than for the majority population—and that the most vulnerable blacks are single men from 16 to 24. The federal crime statistics also show that young black girls are overwhelmingly the largest proportion of rape victims.

Even when middle-class whites might be thought most at risk, it is largely illusory. Contrary to the paranoid mythology, the rioters of Libertyville in Miami a couple of years back followed a long and weird tradition of putting the torch not to their adjacent neighbouring property but to their own. In 1968, it was not Beverly Hills which went up in smoke but the wretched shanty town of Watts.

On the other hand, no one has ever thought it necessary to surround the Baltimore Orioles baseball park with electrified fencing and, in thousands of miles of travel

ling from New England to California, from Florida to Oregon, I never found a vandalised public telephone. . .

I find, though, that I really have started to worry about what previously I would have thought far-fetched—that as an Englishman I stand a good chance of being deprived of my ability to go about my lawful occasions, to have my children educated, to register my vote, and to be protected against arbitrary government. These rights seem much more endangered in this country than I could have thought possible when I left of Right was by my side.

I can't claim that I ever walked down Massachusetts Avenue deeply comforted by the knowledge that the Bill of Rights was by my side. But that is the nature of rights: why worry about what you have? The issue has only intruded into my mind as I walk down the Strand realising that as a native of this land I have fewer protections than I had as a resident alien in America.

Successive governments and Parliaments have seen no reason why I should be entitled to know precisely how my tax money is being spent, what is in my medical records, or who has decided that I am a poor credit risk. In the middle of the local elections I realised that the present Government is not all that wedded even to the

idea that I should have a guaranteed vote.

There have, of course, been protests in Britain about this steady erosion of civil liberties but they seem to me to be unrepresentative of the general mood. What I have found distressing is how little reaction has been generated by some recent episodes, where basic principles have seemingly been swapped by transitory emotions.

Who could have contemplated for a second that any police force in the country would set out to prevent large numbers of ordinary people from going about their business, on the flimsy basis that they might be planning something undesirable? Yet this is what happened during the miners' strike and is what is proposed to defend the tedious presumption of innocence.

The summary departure of Mr Larry Gostin from the National Council for Civil Liberties offers a sad commentary on this new Britain. Compare that dispute with what took place at the council's transatlantic counterpart in similar circumstances. The American Civil Liberties Union came under heavy fire for defending the rights of local Nazis to stage a march through Skokie, the heavily Jewish suburb of Chicago. It lost hundreds of subscribers and came under heavy political assault, but it stuck to its guns in defence of the principle—that the right of peaceful demonstration is protected by the constitution. It made its point and the row is no more than a bad dream.

By contrast, the response of the NCCL membership over the right not to strike seems to me indefensible,

and symptomatic of the middle-headedness of both Right and Left in this country. Civil rights are not divisible and, as has been shown time and again in modern history, often centre on the least appealing causes or individuals.

From what I have heard of Mr Patrick Harrington's politics I doubt that he and I would ever find any common ground—except in his right to be educated to the fullest extent of his abilities. If the rowdies of the North London Polytechnic successfully determine that an NF member has no right to attend philosophy classes, who draws the line and where? The loony right in America feels pretty antipathetic to a lot of people's education—blacks, Catholics, Jews, Hispanics and assorted other groups. Fortunately, the system has largely beaten them back.

The quirkiness of English common law is as wry well as long as we all agree on the basics. I no longer have any confidence that the Establishment is playing by the same rules as me. Such evidence as I have seen suggests strongly that Mrs Thatcher's instincts are deeply authoritarian and that she is much more wedded to "efficiency" than democracy.

This is in sharp contrast to the transatlantic political culture, where paradoxically the hard Right is often one of the strongest advocates of civil liberties. For the greater part, of course, it stems from a profound Jeffersonian suspicion of government at large, but Senator Barry Goldwater, for example, takes a far broader view of the matter than you are likely to find among comparable English Tories.

No one here seems to find it extraordinary that nearly 10,000 people in Britain are regularly imprisoned without trial—remanded in custody for anything up to a year

before they get to court. I wrote a Guardian series on this issue at least a decade ago and the position is far worse now. The broad view seems to be that they wouldn't be there if they hadn't done something.

Even more hair-raising are those cases which totally escape the courts, the immigrants who fall under administrative jurisdiction. They have fewer protections than the average laboratory rat, a sharp contrast with the Cubans, Haitians, Salvadorans, and others who fight their cases before the American courts and win a reasonable proportion of them.

The point about a Bill of Rights is not so much its specific provisions as about the reality of the First Amendment's guarantees of press freedom. Of course, there are the usual obfuscations and evasions of any bureaucracy under fire, but there is always someone sufficiently dedicated to the constitution to spill the beans.

The right to knowledge is one of the most fundamental civil liberties—and the British record is horrendous and getting worse. The Prime Minister has openly declared that she believes in giving the minimum information she can get away with (even if the Official Secrets Act has continued to say under its own legal absurdities).

If anyone in the Pentagon had the gall to tell a Congressman that "it would not be in the national interest to reveal details of the defence research and development effort," he would find himself at the far end of the dole queue before the sun set over the Potomac. He would, in fact, be trying to bolt a

non-existent door, since it is all in the Congressional record if you know where to look. In Britain, the attitude passes almost without comment, though it is our money that is being spent.

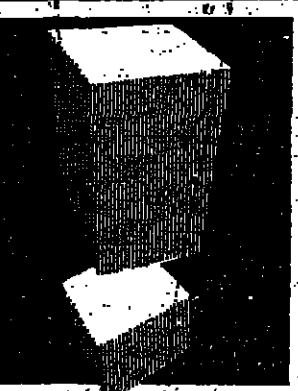
There was a wonderful example of what the constitutional guarantees actually mean when I turned up at a remote Pacific missile testing base—one of the few reporters ever to have set foot in the place. The army authorities really had no idea what to do with me, since I certainly wasn't one of the normal hordes in their activities.

So they showed me over the whole facility, explained in great detail how it worked, and gave me details of the MX test programme, which would have been deeply classified in Washington. The working assumption was that, as a US taxpayer, I had every right to know.

The mind boggles at what would have happened had I turned up at a comparable British installation. Certainly I would have been put under arrest as an opening play. And then what? I should quite possibly have come before a judge to be told that freedom of information was irrelevant and that I had endangered the interests of the state.

The interests of the state, of course, were clearly laid out by Mr Justice McCowan in the recent Pentyng trial—the are, he ruled, whatever "the recognised organs of government and authority" say they are. This view was subsequently affirmed by the Attorney-General.

A similar proposition was accepted by 441 votes in 84 in the German Reichstag on March 23, 1953. It was called the Enabling Law and made Adolf Hitler the sole arbiter of Germany's national interest. We have just been marking the 40th anniversary of what that led to.



Roy Hattersley

ENDPIECE

I SEEM to be the only journalist in Britain who has neglected to write a thousand words of VE-Day memories. One or two fledgling columnists, who cannot even

clearly remember the end of 1945 have written movingly about what they should have done or might have been doing had they reached the age of consent by mid-1945. Other patriotic tyros have described what their parents recall of the morning of relief, afternoon of medication, and evening of rejoicing.

My apology or clear dereliction of duty comes with excuse that I typically enough I was almost certainly not doing anything worth remembering. I recall that school was closed for the day and that, earlier in the week, I had reluctantly painted the flagpole from which Wisewood Secondary flew its victory Union Jack. My reluctance to make the contribution to the national celebration which our woodwork master had fashioned was a product neither of victory nor magnanimity in victory. The pole was laid flat in the school yard, so my phobia for heights was no handicap. And I did not even suffer from a desire for

reconciliation. To be 12 in 1945 was to believe in total war. My complaint was that other little boys were making ruffa-topped stools as a celebration of victory over the Japanese or of Parliament's deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot. The only conflagration in that cold-war which I remember clearly ended suddenly, at least for me, with my mother's discovery that I was launching what we called rockets from milk bottles horizontally instead of vertically. But I am not sure that we even had fireworks in 1945. Surely all the available powder was commandeered for the war effort. It was the right period for such childish homicide. For little boys of my generation were given

bazooka drill by a hundred episodes of British Movietone News. But could I possibly have behaved so foolishly at the age of 12? No wonder that I have blocked the details from my mind.

The other reason for my VE Day amnesia is my antagonism to anniversaries. They are, in truth, nothing more than submission to the tyranny of numbers or, worse still, artificially contrived opportunities to make a point that we were too reticent to make for the rest of the year or century. There is nothing remotely special about the numbers 50 or 100. And I am told by clever children with whom I sometimes come in contact that if the Arabs or Persians or whoever it was who invented zero had decided to build their calculations around eleven instead of ten, we would still have had a theory of numbers which worked just as well as our decimal-preoccupied system. I have no idea if, in these circumstances, we would have had to wait for another four

years to celebrate a comparable VE Day anniversary. I suspect not. For, unlike birthdays, great national celebrations do not happen naturally.

To save you the cost of paper, ink and stamp let me make it unequivocally clear that even as the white flagpole paint ran down my arms I was unambiguously thankful for victory and felt an unqualified gratitude to the man and woman who made it possible—especially Uncle Sid and Uncle George and my father in the Police War Reserve. And my gratitude has increased with the years as I have grown to understand what the alternative to victory would have been. But I cannot help as the joy bells ring out, remembering the last two lines of John Pudney's poem. "Better by far, for Johnny the bright star, to keep your head and see his children feed."

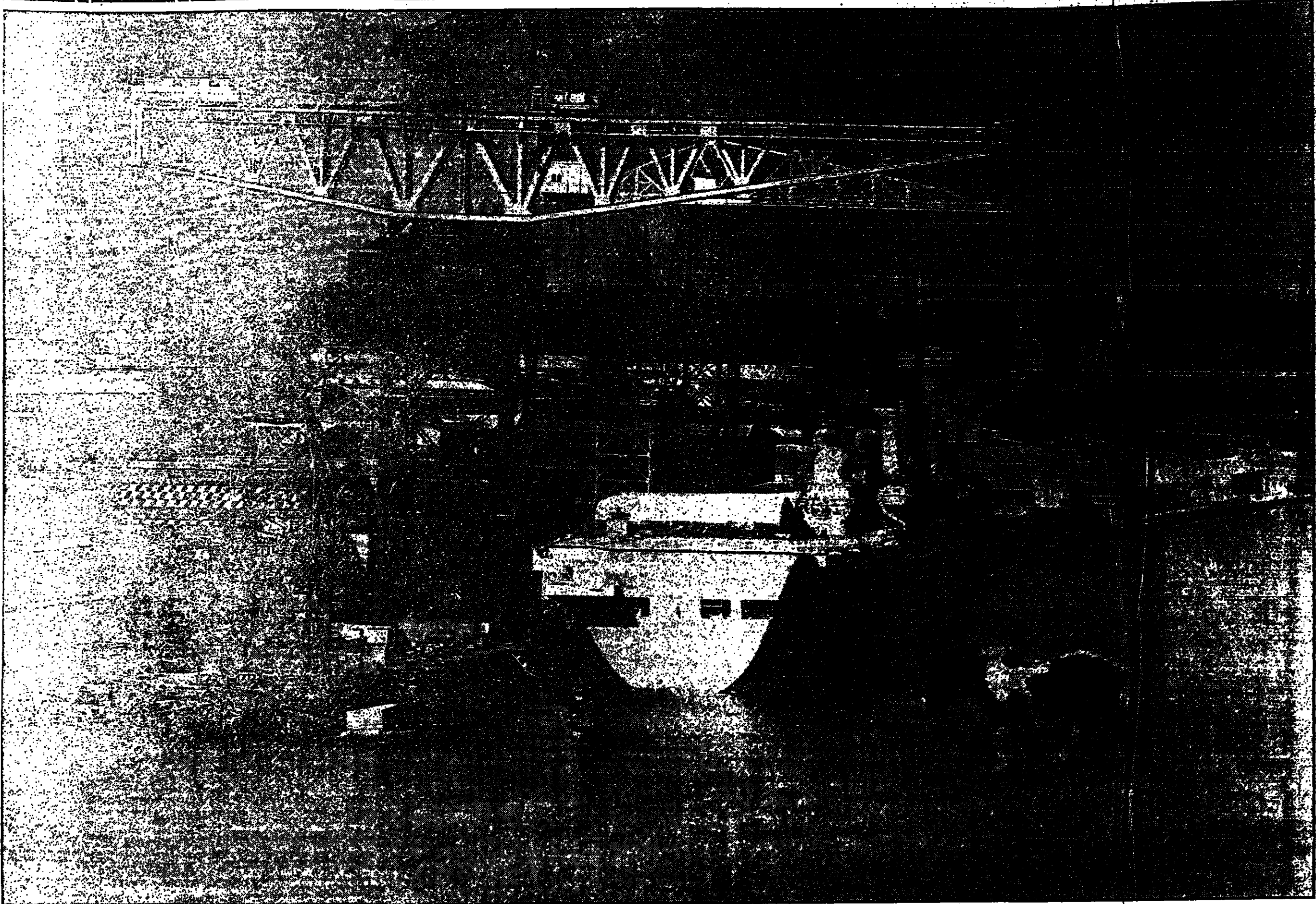
I regroup to repel the next assault by admitting that many of the institutions committed to remembering the

two Great Wars are the societies which most consciously and consistently assist the least fortunate survivors. But it is not about them that I am worried. It is the people who want to recall the deeds, not the dead of past campaigns who bother me—particularly the celebrants who did not get within 50 miles of Dunkirk or a thousand of El Alamein. I am not complaining about soldiers with memories but politicians with aspirations. I think of the pre-election speech by President Reagan over the beaches of Normandy and I want to prohibit anniversaries for ever.

The fashionable justification for the celebration of victory is that they are not celebrations at all but acts of reconciliation. Why such admirable initiatives have to wait until an arbitrary number of years have passed, Willy Brandt made such a moving act in a Jewish cemetery almost 20 years ago when the date on the calendar had no meaning whatsoever. And what sort of reconciliation

was encouraged by celebrating the day on which the allies landed in Europe? I suppose that I am really saying that I doubt the motives of the people who organise these events. The dead ought to be continually remembered, the liberators constantly honoured and reconciliation consistently pursued—without the benefit of attendant television cameras.

If reconciliation is the real objective, it seems to me that it is more likely to be achieved by the parties to the new friendship not spending millions of pounds to remind the world that just over 40 years ago they were trying to blow each other's heads off. It is a grievous misuse of Christmas, Rossetti's maudlin verse, but the motto ought to be "better you should forget and smile." Or, to put it another way, I would have preferred it, if last week all over Europe, little boys were making ruffa-topped stools rather than painting flagpoles.



THE RIVER TYNE is now dominated by the massive silhouette of the fifth Ark Royal in the final stages of completion. The £200 million, 16,000 ton aircraft carrier is at Swan Hunter Shipbuilders' Walker yard, after performing nobly in her sea trials, operating at full power at a top speed of 25 knots and more. The first Ark Royal was built for Sir Walter Raleigh in 1586 for £5,000, and fought the Spanish Armada.

The latest model is something different. She was launched by the Queen Mother at Wallsend in 1981 and since then has been fitted out at the Walker shipyard with extensive modifications as a result of the experience of the Falklands war. After she is handed over to the Royal Navy at the end of June, three months ahead of schedule, the Ark Royal will be used as an off-shore base for vertical take-off Sea Harrier fighter aircraft, and Sea

King anti-submarine helicopters. But the activity in the yard contrasts with the leisurely pace across the river where Gipsy piebalds graze on the reclaimed land beside the Hebburn marina. The tower cranes, 210 metres of heavy metal, compete with the bobbing masts of moored pleasure craft, and swaying daffodils on the new Riverside Walk.

PICTURE BY DENIS THORPE

The MG TF was a rather special sports job thirty years ago. Now they're being made again — not by MG, of course, they don't exist any more, but by a new firm which has raised a small fortune to build replicas. Malcolm Phipps drives both the original and the 1985 version; and Don McPhee's picture of the two cars shows the Bradford-produced model on the right.

Double nostalgia

I PRESSED on the accelerator pedal of this ancient and modern machine and was rewarded with a surge forward and a low throaty growl from its exhaust. Time was turning backwards. I was driving across Yorkshire in a vehicle that re-created the 1950s. The hood was down, giving the elements free rein. A quick glance for policemen and the Naylor TF 1700 pressed on at an illegal pace.

The Naylor is a direct descendant of the MG TF. Purists, and there are many, scoff, saying nobody recreates a Moga Lisa. But the Naylor is the first truly open-topped replica with built-in nostalgia, more a prodigal son than a brother.

He was promptly asked to explain himself to his employers. Naylor left. He originally began a career with engineering in mind, while his brother David wanted to be an accountant. Both had a love of old cars, MGs in particular, and wanted to make money. David spent £30 on a run-down 12 MG in Barnsley and, with help from Alistair, began to re-build it. They really never stopped doing exactly that: other people began to call on their restoration services.

But it was not until 1979 that Alistair Naylor and Alan Stanforth met again at the bar of the Mansion House in Leeds at a racing car club dinner. They talked about building a replica of the MG TF to sell in its own right. They took the plunge during 1980, and the next year Stanforth built the first mock-up of the car they hoped eventually to sell. This time it was Stanforth who was working on a car during his spare time.

But there were still many obstacles, not least the need

for a national type approval certificate. That meant that his 1950s classic would be subjected to 21 demands from 1985 regulations. Naylor says now that if he had known then exactly what he would be up against he would probably not have continued. The morning the car was hurled into a wall at the motor industries research testbed, none of the makers could hide their fears. But the car passed, at a minor cost of £6,000.

Money became a big issue as re-creating the car. In March last year, the West Yorkshire Enterprise Board put up a £20,000 loan and £48,750 worth of equity was injected into the company, now known as Naylor Brothers Developments. A further £20,000 came from private investors.

So far the project had been kept running by the founders and a £15,000 overdraft. The group realised that, to make the project happen, they would have to raise a considerable sum of money, and the only realistic way was to go public. By June, 1984, the offer for subscription had raised £363,000, which enabled other monies to flow towards them. The WYEB approved a loan of £120,000, and Williams and Glyn's Bank an overdraft of £100,000. There was no turning back. "It was easier getting a quarter of a million pounds than it was getting £10,000," says Stanforth.

ic turned up outside the firm in a Riley he had himself restored, and so impressed were the Naylor that he was taken on immediately. Alistair Naylor, meanwhile, was busy persuading people within Austin Rover that he was not just another crackpot. He wanted not only a national type approval but the lifeblood of any car manufacturer, spare parts. He was also hoping to take over the MG badge. In the end he managed two out of three. The badge is still not for trading.

Naylor remembers the first meeting with the Department

of Transport people, who were extremely helpful but never thought he would succeed. "I kept on at them but they presented me with what is known as a statutory instrument. This lists down the 21 criteria a manufacturer has to meet for type approval to ensure the vehicle is safe in 1985, not 1955." He left the department more determined. "The object was to try and do what nobody had done, to re-create a replica of the vehicle, not a kit car."

The Naylor is slightly different from the original MG TF. It is amazing the reaction the car got from young and old. A Lancastrian strolled up to me when I was in the Naylor saying he had always wanted an open topped car — in fact he liked the Morgan. I said, "but his wife had always flatly refused to ride in such a car." "I've since got rid of the wife so I'm on the look out for one," he said, quite seriously.

The Naylor is very positive to drive, and twisting and turning roads won't tempt it to slip or slide. It will, I swear, top 100 mph. The original, a marvellous car owned by Robert Cockcroft, has a rare kind of ageing comfort. It will do most things the new car will do, but obviously the years have taken their toll and the extra power is welcome in the Naylor.

The Naylor costs around £13,750, and the original is anybody's guess. Both cars can fulfil a motoring dream, at a price. The Naylor is about to be driven around the country as part of the Cavalcade of Motoring at 20 stately homes between June, at Epsom, through to Donington Park in Derbyshire in September.

Rubbish is preserved just because it is old. Take Stonehenge, for example, suggests Tony Harman. Well, no, that's maybe not the right example, but if not, why can't he build an imitation Stonehenge on his farm?

Age, alas, before beauty

I WOULD LIKE to build a henge. There are two reasons why I cannot do this. One is that I am not a millionaire. The second is that they would not let me.

I have a perfect site — visible for miles — so that all the nutters in the country could collect on midsummer night to do whatever it is that nutters do on midsummer night, or where pop festivals could be held without bothering anybody else. But they would never let me do it.

It would be just like the original Stonehenge, but, because it is new, it would be in better repair. I might even make it a little bigger. If one is beautiful, why would the other not be?

Filling in the forms for planning application would present some difficulty. What materials are the walls made of? There are not any walls. What materials are the roofs made of? There is no roof. What is the purpose of the building? What will it be used for? It would be impossible to say, except for an assembly of nutters. Are any organisations supporting your application? I should not think so.

But this would only be the beginning of one's troubles. As soon as the application is published in the columns of the local paper, there would be objections. An organisation would spring up to oppose what I wanted to do — probably called by some initials, like Campaign Against Harman's Henge (CAHH), or something of the sort. All the computers, accountants, and stockbrokers in their converted farmhouses or nauseating pre-war country houses would join together, along with the lesser commuters living in the converted farmworkers' cottages and terraced houses at the edge of the town, in a virulent campaign about the orgies which would take place when the henge was complete.

When I was quite young, in the middle thirties, I worked for a short while in a silversmiths in the West End of London. Everything over a hundred years old was good. Everything less than a hundred years old was rubbish. Was it because the standard of workmanship collapsed during the eighteen thirties? Not a bit of it. It was because our main customers were Americans, who would buy articles over a hundred years old and get them in duty-free to America. Under a hundred

years old, even ninety-nine years old, they could not do it. Of course, the silver was precisely marked so that it could be identified as good or rubbish straight away. So the salesman had to convince people that everything was beautiful if it was over a hundred years old. It is probably worse now — certainly as far as housing goes. Rubbish which would have been condemned as slums, is preserved because it is old and made fairly habitable at great expense.

In the countryside at the moment, all the authorities are keen on preserving wooden farm buildings. They may be converted into houses, and are encouraged to be converted into houses in situations where no house could otherwise be built. This is done only because they are old. Their style and structure is not difficult to reproduce, but the actual barn is old, therefore it is beautiful.

One cannot help wondering if, in another fifty years or so, the modern asbestos and concrete buildings put up on farms since the war, which are still considered to be very unsatisfactory, will suddenly become antique and, therefore, to be preserved, and people will be converting concrete silos and milking parlours into desirable country houses at enormous expense, naming them their historic buildings in the countryside.

Mind you, you cannot always say a home that foreigners have the same respect for age as we have. A few years ago, I was in the United States, attempting to sell Charolais cattle, which I bred in Alabama. My host at the time seemed to be a typical Southern gentleman, puffed out of his mind every night, and put to bed to my certain knowledge by the faithful black servant. This man surely must respect traditions? He was living in an entirely out of date style, so in order to impress him, I drew the conversation round to houses and said that the house in which I lived was reckoned to be as much as six hundred years old. "Never mind," he said, "if you do the trade you think you're going to do with these Charolais cattle, you'll be able to pull it down and have a new one." I felt somewhat crushed at the time. But I suppose I had asked for it.

I think they would let me build a henge in Alabama.

However ugly most of us think they are, 1940 cinemas are becoming worthy of preservation whenever anybody wants to pull them down.

If my henge could just be fairly old straight away, it could become quite acceptable. Now, however, ugly most of us might think they are, 1940 cinemas are becoming worthy of preservation whenever anybody wants to pull them down. I do not know when this attitude towards age started, but it developed very quickly during the twenties and thirties.

When I was quite young, in the middle thirties, I worked for a short while in a silversmiths in the West End of London. Everything over a hundred years old was good. Everything less than a hundred years old was rubbish. Was it because the standard of workmanship collapsed during the eighteen thirties? Not a bit of it. It was because our main customers were Americans, who would buy articles over a hundred years old and get them in duty-free to America. Under a hundred

Cheaper oil could be good for the West, but a desperate gamble for Britain



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

THE OIL industry has been peeping into the abyss again. On Wednesday, the price of a barrel of crude from Britain's Brent field dropped to below \$26. The following day, the price picked up again and yesterday it was back to around \$26.50.

But the dip was enough to revive the industry's recurring nightmare, which is that if the price slides too far, the member states of Opec

will be unable to resist the domestic pressures to make up their losses by boosting production. This would flood the market with oil and create an eddy in which prices would spiral all the way down to the cost price of crude, which is below \$10 a barrel for even the most expensive blends.

The weakening of the dollar (which devalues Opec's dollar-denominated earnings) could have exactly the same effect. But even without a further collapse of the dollar, the nightmare is bound to come back again and again this summer as warmer weather in the northern hemisphere depresses demand.

There are two underlying causes of the present downward pressure on prices. One is that the world has learnt to get by with less energy so that even the upturn in the world's fortunes which began in 1983 has not led to more demand for oil. The other reason is that most of the non-Opec countries are

pumping out oil as fast as they can. Britain's role in this cannot be overstressed. She may not be the biggest of the non-Opec producers—the US and USSR both have higher outputs—but output of itself is not as important as the proportion of that output which is traded internationally. In this respect, Britain is the market leader.

Although the fact is rarely mentioned, least of all by the British Government, Britain is in a position to exercise a greater influence over the price of oil than any other nation except Saudi Arabia. This might then be a good moment to ask if a substantial fall in the price of oil would, in the immortal words of Sellers and Yesodan, be a Good Thing or a Bad Thing.

Most of the studies carried out so far have come to the conclusion that the trauma of a free fall to cost price or thereabouts would cancel out any possible benefits in the long term afterwards. Some of the world's mightiest corporations would be shaken to

their roots. Several producer nations would go bust and bring down with them the foreign banks and manufacturers to whom they are in debt. It is no exaggeration to speak of a "28 crash" but on a global scale.

However, the analysts have also come to the unanimous conclusion that a steady, controlled drop of 10 to 20 per cent would be really quite good news for the developed world as a whole. The rule of thumb that economists work on at the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Energy Agency in Paris is that every 10 per cent fall in the oil price would add about a half a per cent to average real GNP growth in the West.

Having said that, the benefits of a drop in the oil price would be unevenly distributed. A study by Data Resources found that the US would do particularly well. Energy intensities are higher there, the market for oil products is freer and the price of oil products contains

much less tax than in Europe, so a fall in the cost of crude would have a much greater impact on prices generally. The result would be a significant addition to disposable incomes and a rise in both consumption and investment.

Europe, on the other hand, fares less well in DRI's simulation, not only for the reasons mentioned above but because Europe makes most of its purchases, would suffer most from the oil producers' belt-tightening and face stiffer rivalry from Japan and the developing countries whose competitiveness would increase more than Europe's.

Within Europe, Britain is a special case. As producers, our earnings in dollars from the North Sea would fall, but since the pound's fate is linked to that of oil prices, the dollar would strengthen. At its current so that the value of those earnings when translated from dollars into pounds would not fall by as much.

However, DRI's analysis

concluded, the two effects do not cancel each other out. Simulating a drop in the price of a barrel to \$20 this summer, it found that the starting value of oil production falls by about \$4 billion, well over 10 per cent of GDP immediately, and government revenues from oil taxation drop by \$3.4 to \$3.4 billion. This shortfall is immediately put paid to any hope of tax cuts over 1985 and 1986.

What is more, Britain would seem likely to suffer a rise in inflation since the effect on prices in general of the fall in sterling would be more than offset by the cut in costs directly attributable to a drop in the price of oil.

Nat. everyone, however, is not in agreement. A recent run on the Treasury model have suggested that Britain would be a net beneficiary. Gavyn Davies, of stockbrokers, Simon and Co., also came up with that conclusion, but he added a warning that "there is no magic wand available to the UK Government which would

ensure a controlled drop in the oil price."

And while an outright collapse would be pretty good for everyone, it would be catastrophic for us. As Mr Davies pointed out, there is a good chance that Opec would single us out for punishment. The Opec oil states hold \$7 billion of sterling bank deposits and \$2.9 billion of British Government stock. They could cause panic on the markets.

Even a relatively modest further drop in the oil price would have adverse results for Britain, which, because they do not fall within the scope of theoretical economics, have barely been mentioned in the studies carried out so far.

For one thing, Nigeria is the oil producer which is generally agreed would be most vulnerable to a cut in the oil price. If Nigeria went bust, British firms—more than any other others—would be left to pick up the tab.

Another thing which tends to be overlooked is that investment in the exploration

and development of new fields varies in line with the price of oil. As an official of the IEA put it: "When you get substantially below \$25, you get to the point where investment will be postponed." Nowhere is that more true than in the North Sea, where production costs are the highest in the world.

By leading the world towards lower oil prices, the British Government is therefore taking a gamble in which, from a strictly nationalistic point of view the dangers are a great deal more apparent than the benefits. It may be an honourable and worthwhile objective to pursue, but the interests of the West as a whole? But what is the quid pro quo from the Americans and our other allies?

As so often with this government, one is left in no doubt that it is allowing the free play of market forces, but altogether less convinced that it is "bating for Britain".

John Hooper

Canadian deal provides strategic foothold

BT buys control of Mitel for £180 million

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom yesterday announced its first major takeover, just five months after privatisation. It is paying £180 million for a 51 per cent controlling stake in the Canadian telecommunications manufacturer Mitel.

The deal, yet to be finalised, is the first solid signal of BT's determination to tackle world markets and to pay even greater pressure on BT's traditional UK suppliers, GEC and Plessey.

Mitel, formed in 1971 by two young British brain-drainers, quickly rose to world prominence in computerised phone exchanges, but then stumbled as the inevitably more sluggish big telecom corporations caught up.

BT's chairman, Sir George Jefferson, said the deal was of "considerable strategic importance" in giving BT a base in North America and in moving more strongly into the "office controller" role where

telecoms and computing converged.

Sir George said that talks so far with the Canadian authorities indicated that they welcomed the deal, which was reached in one week of negotiations. He added that he saw enhanced prospects for Mitel's UK factory near Newport, South Wales, where nearly 1,000 people work.

He emphasised that BT would exercise full management control as soon as the agreement was finalised. But it was "most probable" that Mitel's founders—Mr Terry Matthews, the president and chief executive, and Mr Mike Cowland, the chairman—would continue to "play a part" in the firm. They hold about 26 per cent of the stock.

Mitel headquarters in Kanata, just outside Ottawa, grew at a great pace because Mr Matthews and Mr Cowland based their business from the start on the theory of the convergence of computing and telecommunications. In particular, microchips designed particularly for telecommunications

BT, GEC, and Plessey took licences in their chip technology in 1980.

But then Mitel slipped into the classic tech management problem of a small leader's galloping expansion into a world force. It also encountered technical delays in producing a topsize version of its phone exchanges, the SX2000. It fell into loss in 1983 but was back in profit by the last quarter of 1984. Its loss in 1984 overall was \$2.1 million on a \$370.8 million turnover. Its long-term debts are \$209 million and its net assets \$201 million.

Already about a third of the company's phone exchanges BT deals in come either from Mitel or from BT's own designs, rather than from the traditional UK suppliers. The British computer company ICL also has a great pace because Mr Matthews and Mr Cowland based their business from the start on the theory of the convergence of computing and telecommunications. In particular, microchips designed particularly for telecommunications

European Banking up for sale

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

European Banking, a consortium bank in which Midland has a 14 per cent stake, has been put up for sale but a bid approach from the giant US securities firm, Merrill Lynch, has already been rejected. This was a result of strong opposition from the four key managing directors of European Banking.

The shareholders' rejection of the Merrill Lynch approach is understood to have led to the departure from European Banking, announced yesterday, of the deputy chairman, Mr Stanislas Yassukovich, who is believed to have favoured the

Merrill Lynch bid for the bank, which is an Anglo-Belgian organisation run from London.

London bankers believe that he ran into fierce opposition from his own senior executive because the deal would have led to the integration and splitting up of the bank within the far larger securities organisation of Merrill Lynch.

The London head of Merrill Lynch, Mr Don Roth, was recalled recently to the United States, and Mr Yassukovich is thought to remain a strong candidate for filling his post.

A number of potential buyers remain interested in European Banking, which has a

price tag of up to £200 million, has an interim arrangement with Midland to take full control before passing it on to one of the bidders. The plan to get Midland off the hook in a local difficulty in New York.

The plan is as follows: Midland has a 20 per cent stake in a much bigger US consortium bank called European American Bank (EAB) and following Midland's acquisition of the Californian bank, Crocker National, Midland was ordered to reduce its EAB stake to 5 per cent. The deadline is October 15.

As all but one of the European Banking shareholders are

also shareholders in EAB—the exception is the Italian Banca Commerciale—Midland may simply swap its EAB stake for control of European Banking. Banca Commerciale would be paid back for its European Banking stake.

If the search for an outside buyer fails a purchase by one of the existing shareholders in European Banking is still not ruled out, though Midland is presently wary to act only as intermediary.

The sale of European Banking will be one more nail in the coffin of consortium banks, which in recent years have gradually moved into the control of single owners.

Masses apply for BAE shares

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

A deluge of applications totalling between £1.5 billion and £2.5 billion is estimated to have been submitted for this week's £22 million down-payment of the £1.5 billion share offering in British Aerospace.

City bankers handling the joint government and company share sale would last night confirm only that the down payment was "comfortably over-subscribed." But the private City estimates were that the offer was between five and eight times oversubscribed, indicating that up to £2.5 billion may be submitted for the £22 million of shares on offer.

While the government will undoubtedly hail the news as a further privatisation success story, the hefty oversubscription will re-open the controversial debate about selling public assets too cheaply. Full details of the oversubscription are not expected to emerge until Monday morning.

The government has already run into criticism over the large fees and commissions being paid to City financial institutions.

Under the terms of the joint sale, the government is selling its 48 per cent stake in BAE for a flat £363 million and BAE is simultaneously raising £187 million in a separate share offer.

But City institutions are being guaranteed 55 per cent of the joint issue and the general public only 24 per cent. The remainder, for existing BAE shareholders and employees.

The scale of the response is somewhat greater than it is expected to be, and the greater the oversubscription the more intense will be the outcry about selling public assets too cheaply. £43p, to stand 43p above the offer price.

DPP orders Telecom applications inquiry

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

The government moved yesterday to bring possible criminal proceedings against speculators who attempted to profit excessively from last November's £4 billion British Telecom privatisation, on the day that BT shares rose to yet another peak, the applications for the £383 million British Aerospace sale closed.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, announced that he had asked the police to investigate alleged fraudulent multiple applications by certain groups and individuals for BT shares.

Investors to the BT issue were limited to one application form per individual, and ahead of the offer, the latest ever share issue in the world, the government issued a warning of possible charges against anyone discovered breaching the terms of the offer.

A firm of City accountants, Peat Marwick, were appointed to scrutinise the applications. Their findings were forwarded by the Department of Trade and Industry to the DPP in March.

The revolutionary strictures on multiple applications were

enforced because of beliefs that the offer for sale would be heavily oversubscribed, offering investors the opportunity of immediate, and substantial profits. These fears were duly realised, with the par of the privatisation reserved for the general public attracting nine times as many applications as there were shares available.

Yesterday, the shares stood in the London stock market at a price of 138p each, compared with the offer price of 50p, giving those investors who received shares an aggregate £3.25 billion profit to date. The inquiries are believed to be centred on about eight groups who put in false applications for shares worth between £1 million and £2 million.

The application forms, tendered in fictitious names, tended to be drawn on single accounts, created, bank

None of the applicants in question received any shares, and the cheques they forwarded in support of their applications were cashed by the government, the proceeds held for several weeks before being returned to the applicants.

Names face more PCW losses

By Mary Brasler

Names of Lloyd's syndicates managed by the former PCW agency will learn on Monday of millions of pounds of further underwriting losses on top of the £100 million they have already suffered.

An examination of the syndicates' latest financial position has revealed another massive tranche of losses incurred in 1983 and 1984. A total of 1,500 names are already facing demands for £50 million of additional funds to meet a deficit on the 1982 year of accounts, and £40 million was paid out last year. Mr Graham White, managing director of RBIA (the renamed PCW) confirmed yesterday that there were further losses to come but the syndicates would not be as high as £50 million.

The latest figures are said to be a reflection purely of bad underwriting, although the syndicates at the heart of the crisis, 918,940 and 157 are also those from which £38 million went missing.

This year, names have been given only until the end of July to find the money in some individual cases up to £500,000 apiece.

A meeting of PCW names has been called for Monday at the Royal Festival Hall in London at which the agency which is managing the affairs of the PCW syndicates, now renamed Richard Beckett Underwriting Agency, is expected to announce more light on the 1983 and 1984 years of account, including a report from the syndicates' current underwriter as to why the figures are so disastrous.

The verdict of Lord Wilberforce on whether the Lloyd's underwriter, Mr Ian Fosgate, should face a life ban from the market was reserved yesterday as the four-day appeal hearing in London ended. The judgment is likely to be presented to a meeting of the Lloyd's Council in the next month or so.

Cadbury's soft-drink splash

By Andrew Cornelius

Cadbury Schweppes, the chocolate and soft-drinks group yesterday grabbed a huge slice of the fast-growing in-home soft drinks market with an agreed £28.2 million takeover bid for Sodastream, the leading company in the sector.

Sodastream claims to have 60 per cent of the UK market for the in-home carbonated soft drinks market, which sell for between £20 and £30 each. It also has a dominant position in Norway, Sweden, South Africa and Israel.

Cadbury is already a big force in the £1 billion a year UK bottled soft drinks market, and said that it had been planning an entry into the in-home market for some time.

"We see Sodastream as an opportunity of getting into a growing market and the financial muscle to take advantage of the opportunities open to Sodastream in a fast-growing area of the soft drinks market. Only 12 per cent of UK households had in-house dispensers, compared with the 40 per cent penetration achieved in other countries."

Cadbury is offering 31 of its ordinary shares, or £48.40p in cash, for every ten Sodastream shares. This compares with the bid price of Sodastream shares of 242p per share.

Cadbury made pre-tax profits of £124 million in 1984, against pre-tax profits of £106.9 million the previous year.

that the takeover was "good for both sides." He said that Sodastream had the financial muscle to take advantage of the opportunities open to Sodastream in a fast-growing area of the soft drinks market. Only 12 per cent of UK households had in-house dispensers, compared with the 40 per cent penetration achieved in other countries.

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Backers' passage to prosperity

By Maggie Brown

A Passage to India, the David Lean film based on E. M. Forster's masterpiece, has achieved such resounding box office success that its 10 financiers, eight of them newcomers to film financing, are receiving an advance repayment of their capital.

The pension funds and institutions yesterday received repayment of 10 per cent of their outlay, worth around £1.8 million, in a move which could also be interpreted as whetting the City's appetite for more film finance deals.

Thorn EMI Screen Entertain-

ment, in a pioneering deal last January, succeeded in selling a 50 per cent interest in five British films which it had backed up to the distribution stage. The list, headed by A Passage to India, also included Morons from Outer Space, the Holocaust, Covenant, Dream Child and Wild Geese II.

Mr John Reiss, production director of Thorn EMI, said: "The success of A Passage to India has been no forecast in the January prospectus, or requirement to repay the capital, on top of agreed interest payments made at the end of April, but that A Passage to India was doing very well all over the world. It has already taken around \$30 million in North American box offices."

Screen Entertainment, the revived film, video and ABC cinema offshoot of Thorn EMI, raised £175 million of finance in March, with which to fund up to 20 films a year made by independent producers. It is clearly considering offering a similar equity stake in a second package of new films later this year, as it builds up to its ambition of being able to bring two major new films to the marketplace every month.

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Warning as SE confirms concessions

By Margaret Panozo, City Correspondent

Rebellious Stock Exchange members were warned again yesterday of the serious dangers to the securities and gilt markets if they throw out the modified key proposals due to go to the vote on June 4.

The warning came from Sir Nicholas Goudson, the exchange's chairman, in a letter to members confirming the decision to scrap the new top of shares, at £2,000 a share, in the exchange. The price of member's shares will be determined by market forces.

After bitter criticism from members, the Stock Exchange Council has also decided to scale down the voting rights of a firm, or group of firms, from 5 per cent of the total votes to 3 per cent. This concession has been made to meet objections that, at some later date after his ban, the council and exchange could be dominated by a handful of "powerful financial groups."

Although the proposed new top of shares is being dropped, Sir Nicholas said the council would reserve the power to issue new shares at any future date, but only in exceptional circumstances. An example would be if there were no effective market in the shares.

The Bank of England and the Government, it is still determined that the maximum cost of entry for new firms into the market is kept at a reasonable level. Sir Nicholas said the council expected that the maximum cost for new firms—including buying new shares and the general service charge—would not exceed £700,000.

Many members will regard these concessions as a victory, but there are still a large number of small to medium firms who remain unhappy with the speed of change at the exchange and who might well still try to block the key votes.

Sir Nicholas again spelled out the threat facing the exchange if the proposals allow outside members full control of member firms is thrown out. "If it fails, the market in gilts and in leading equities is likely to move out of the exchange. It would be, in these circumstances, impossible to maintain an efficient and liquid market-making system through which remaining firms could do their clients' business effectively," he said.

He added that the failure of the second round of negotiations requiring a 75 per cent majority—could damage the exchange's standing, and the confidence of firms and investors.

Pluck of the Irish gets a reward

By Maggie Brown

An Irish electrical engineer called Martin Naughton has been quietly proving over the past 12 years that it is perfectly possible to build up a profitable business in Northern Ireland, England and the Irish Republic by manufacturing—and not importing as is the fashion—a range of apparently unglamorous home appliances, such as Dimplex radiators, shaver sockets, kettles, and even the kind of hot water boiler used to make tea in factory canteens.

Yesterday Mr Naughton, aged 45, had the satisfaction of seeing the ink dry on his biggest, most ambitious acquisition to date. His private Glen Dimplex firm, owned 51 per cent by him, is buying the famous Morphy Richards toaster and iron company.

Its £30 million of annual sales lifts his combined group of nine factories in Ulster, the Republic and at Southampton and Burnley, from a turnover of £70 million a year to £100 million. "It's a fabulous name to have," he enthuses. Add in his 700 workforce, and he now employs 3,500 people.

He became a major, but little known, force in his sector. Mr Naughton has bought the apparently profitable com-

pany, complete with the famous Morphy Richards plant in Mexborough, Yorkshire, for an undisclosed sum from a group of City institutions led by Capital for Industry, which in turn bought it from its disinterested large parent, GEC, for less than £25 million three years ago.

Since then its manufacturing lines have been given a £5 million upgrade, and Mr Naughton, at last in control of the prize he has been trying to buy for two years, intends to give a whole new range of kitchen electrical appliances to the Morphy Richards stable.

This ex-works manager struck out on his own in 1972.

He founded Glen in Newry, Northern Ireland, making oil-fired radiators. In 1977, with a turnover of £2.2 million, he bought the Dimplex radiator firm (turnover, £18 million, losses £1 million a year) from the receiver, in a daring "David and Goliath" deal that worked out. He next bought up AET, the Eire company making kettles and cookers he had managed from the receiver in 1978.

We believe in the best design, right prices, without control of overhead. Good general managers, and a good, unionised, workforce."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

THE End Loans to South Africa group and several MPs will next Tuesday be picketing the offices of four of the City's top merchant banks—Hill Samuel, Hambro, Schroder Wagg and N. M. Rothschild—in an effort to draw attention to the large loans handled by merchant banks. Total loans to the republic in the last 18 months by UK financial institutions topped £1.5 billion.

THE Sultan of Brunei, the new owner of the Dorchester Hotel in London, yesterday lost his appeal against a temporary injunction granted to Regent International allowing them to continue managing the hotel. A spokesman for the Sultan said that the dispute would now be settled by arbitration at a hearing in November.

THE Daily Telegraph's attempt to raise £20 million of unquoted new equity investment to help fund its re-equipment and new building plans is going slower than expected and is not expected to be finalised until the middle of next week.

JOHN BROWN's heavy engineering subsidiary, Markham & Co. of Chesterfield, announced yesterday the loss of 200 jobs because of extremely competitive market conditions, reducing the workforce from 500 to 300.

SHAREHOLDERS of Associated Dairies, the Asda stores group, yesterday approved the proposed £2 billion merger with MFI Furniture.

THE first computer executive to go to jail for illegally shipping computers to the Eastern bloc had his sentence halved by the court of appeal yesterday. Michael John Ludlam, 42, from Yorkshire, was sentenced to a total of two years in prison from January for illegally shipping computers to Bulgaria. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, ordered that two consecutive 12-month sentences should run concurrently.

Savings rates up

A further sign that interest rates are likely to remain high for the immediate future came yesterday with the announcement of higher rates to be paid to National Savings investors. From tomorrow the rates payable on income bonds and deposit bonds go from 12.75 per cent to 13.25 per cent gross.

The new rates are the highest to be offered by National Savings in three years, and have been made with Treasury approval.

The rates will not have a direct effect on the building societies, who are already paying higher rates.

NatWest and the Trustee Savings Bank today begin opening branches as the first step towards six-day banking. More than 30 NatWest branches will be open by the end of the year, the bank plans to have 200 branches open on Saturdays, they will open between 9.30 and 12.30 and involve 5,000 staff.

The TSB will also open 30 branches and move on to 200 by the end of the year.

Trade embargo row brewing

From Iain Giest in Geneva

The stage is set for a furious row in the GATT between the US and Nicaragua over the US trade embargo that took effect on Tuesday. The Nicaraguans have lodged a formal complaint against the US in the GATT and this will be heard in the 88-member GATT council here on May 29. The embargo affects 79 per cent of Nicaragua's exports.

The US trade representative in Geneva, Mr Peter Murphy, told journalists yesterday that the US will invoke Article 21 of the GATT agreement to defend the embargo.

This article permits countries to impose emergency restrictions on trade in the event of an emergency.

A rights issue to keep AE afloat

The lack of demand for large diesel engines was compounded by the effects of the miners' strike on catering equipment sales and there was a loss of £1.73 million for the year to March 31, compared with £258,000 previously. Contrary to the board's hopes at the interim stage, losses in the second half continued and were not very far short of the half-time deficit.

Reuter in UPI watch

No action would be taken unless it met two key criteria. Any move would have to bring benefits to the Reuter position

Mr Weblin is confident. Sales in the first two months of the current year showed a satisfactory improvement and the group looked set to beat last year's profit level. The bulk of the profit increase came from the UK retailing activities which are up \$200,000 to \$1.6 million while profit from Europe also showed a big increase. Liberty's converting and wholesaling activities also improved profit by \$300,000 to \$1.3 million while the printing business moved into the black after last year's losses.

in the media markets, and a good contribution to profits.

Speaking after Reuter's first annual meeting, Mr Renfrew said: "Any action we take will be done very much with the interests of Reuter's bottom line in mind. We are keeping in touch with all the relevant parties and we are evaluating the options for pos-

Sir Denis Hamilton, retiring chairman of Reuter, said 1985 was shaping up as another year of very good revenue and profits growth for Reuter. Its dominant newspaper shareholders are technically free to start orderly sales of Reuter shares, if they want to, from next January, only seven months away.

Electra Investment, the pioneering development capital trust, is raising \$40 million from three big United States investment institutions. The terms of the 9 per cent seven-year note subscription mean

Unlisted investments account for 57 per cent of Electra's £250 million investment portfolio in line with the policy pursued in recent years. Successes in management buy-out situations, the rise in stock markets, and to some extent the United Kingdom income tax relief available under the Business Expansion Scheme, have raised the competition for the better investment opportunities.

AS THE smell of roasted stags drifted away at the Coloroll pitch, shares in the wallpaper group struggled up to their offer for sale price of 135p yesterday only to close at 134p — 6p up on the day.

HILL Woolgar now plans to join the USM in September. The licensed dealer and financial services group was planning an introduction last November.

**Edited by
Tony May**

THE MARKETS

Some stores also relinquishing retail gains on profit-taking, although Debenhams stayed very active on takeover speculation. The day's main story occurred just after 9.30 am when British Telecom announced that it had taken a controlling interest in Canadian telecommunications giant, **MITEL**, which makes private automatic branch exchange (PABX) switches. BT closed 47p better at a new high of 157½, while **MITEL**, suspended some time ago at 450p, returned 150p higher at 800p.

Other electricals took the news badly, however. the prospect of increased competition hitting such as Plessey, 10p down at 170p. Defence issues were additionally unsettled by the proposed US cutbacks, which President Reagan reluctantly approved to enable his budget measures to be passed

• **BOC Group**, reporting half-time figures next Monday, rose 7p to 284p. Dealers are looking for profits of around £75 million, up from £65 million for the same period last year. **Vickers** continued their strong advance, up to 16p to 336p, still excited by Mr Saul Steinberg's

PEEK HOLDINGS is urging shareholders in Energy Services & Electronics to opt for the change in management that its bid would bring about and warns that the ES&E share price is likely to fall if the bid fails at Tuesday's closing date. The price has remained slightly above the offer terms even though some sellers were playing safe.

5.5 per cent holding and comment highlighting the prospects for nationalisation compensation, due to be heard by the European Court next month.

Main changes: British Aero 418p up 10p; Plessey 170p down 10p; Vickers 336p up 16p; BOC Group 284p up 7p; MITEL 600p up 150p; Pent-

COMMODITIES

● Frankfurt: Prices closed mixed, with the bulk of trading centring around a few selected issues. The Commerzbank Index finished unchanged at 1244.5.

● Paris: Stocks closed higher in response to lower short-term interest rates, signs of a modest upswing industrial activity, and Wall Street's overnight turnaround. The general market indicator closed with a gain of 0.43 per cent. Advancing issues led declines 102 to 60.

● Tokyo: Stocks gained in active trading. Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 12,526.31 (12,474.51).
● Hong Kong: Prices finished mixed in active trading. Hang

Seng Index : 1613.36 (1610.09).

FT Ordinary Share Index up 10.8 at 1001.9. FT-SE 100 Index up 9.5 at 1315.8. Pound: \$1.2362; DM: 3.85; Fr: 11.76. Gold: \$314.75. Account: April

29 to May 10. FT All Share Index up 3.11 at 632.33. Sterling Index 78.1 (1975=100). RPI: 366.1 (March) up 6.1 per cent on year.

CS

Rubber: spot 69p per kilo; June £715 per tonne; July £725 per tonne; August £735 per tonne.

Coffee: May £2,168 per tonne; July £2,151 per tonne; Sep £2,207 per tonne; Nov £2,240 per tonne; Jan £2,260 per tonne; Mar £2,240 per tonne.

Cocoa: May £1,833 per tonne; July £1,870 per tonne; Sep £1,846 per tonne; Dec £1,800 per tonne; Mar £1,796 per tonne.

[illegible][illegible]

TOURIST RATES—BANK SELLS					
Austria	26.50	Greece	7.90	Portugal	209
Belgium	76.30	Ireland	1.21	Spain	107
Denmark	13.72	Italy	2.40	Sweden	11.06
France	13.50	Malta	0.58	Switzerland	1.22
Germany	3.78	Netherlands	8.57	USA	1.22
		Norway	10.99	Vasolonia	304

STERLING RATES		
Chicago	Previous	Forward Rates (One Month)
Market Rates	Cable Rates	
Australia	1.7820-1.7860	1.7805-1.7825
Austria	27.07-27.14	27.23-27.30
Belgium	77.48-77.70	77.55-77.77
Canada	1.7000-1.7052	1.7075-1.7195
France	13.85-13.94	13.99-13.91
Germany	11.74-11.78	11.73-11.77
Greece	3.84-3.85	3.85-3.86
Hong Kong	167.75-171.41	168.39-172.00
Ireland	1.60-3.62	0.97-0.99
Italy	1.2295-1.2305	1.2295-1.2305
Japan	2,455.66-2,464.72	2,449.02-2,460
Netherlands	311.72-312.34	311-312
Norway	4.34-4.35	4.34-4.35
Sweden	11.08-11.12	11.09-11.11
Spain	217.98-223.19	220.54-224.53
Switzerland	216.99-217.29	216.70-217.21
USA	1.116-1.120	1.113-1.116
	1.324-3.25	3.23-3.24
	1.295-1.2370	1.2380-1.2395

Dollar cross rates against : Swiss franc 2.60; French franc 9.50; DM 3.12; Yen 252.00.

INTEREST RATES

UK HIGH STREET %	
Bank deposit: 7-7.125	Building society mortgages: 13
Bank base rate: 15.5-12.75	Building society: 7.7 net
Bank overdraft: 15.75-15	Home lease rate: 15.5

UK MONEY MARKETS %			
7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months
Treasury bill	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Eighty days	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Billigible bills	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Discount market	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS %			
	1 month	3 months	6 months
London	8 1/2	9 1/2	10 1/2
Europe	8 1/2	9 1/2	10 1/2
US	10 1/2	11 1/2	12 1/2
US	10 1/2	11 1/2	12 1/2

US INTEREST RATES:	
Federal funds: 8-10	US prime rates: 10

WEEK-END MONEY

Stuck for a franc, lira or mark? The eurocheque is the best way to spend money from Norway to Cyprus. Margaret Dibben explains how the cheques work and what they cost

How to raise funds throughout Europe

Bank	Starting date	Annual charge	Foreign bank fee	Cost per cheque	Life of card	Card becomes invalid
Barclays	Late 85-early 86	£3.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	1.1.86
Lloyds	April 1	£3.50	1.25%	31p	2 yrs	n/a
Midland	May 1983	£3.50	1.25%	29p	2 yrs	31.12.86
NatWest	April 19	£3.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	
TSB	End 85/early 86	£3.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	
Yorkshire	May 1	£3.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	

THE European Community, created to break down international barriers, has mostly made communication more complex. Yet the eurocheque is a good case in point.

Time was when you could take your everyday cheque book across the Channel and, with your everyday cheque guarantee card, get cash. Then came the eurocheque card which proved too simple so now we are coerced into the uniform eurocheque which costs money.

Two years ago, only the Midland Bank chose the uniform eurocheque. The other banks are now following Midland's route and abandoning the free guarantee card in favour of uniform eurocheques, at a charge.

And of course they are selling this U-turn as a substantial improvement in the services they offer to customers. If that is the case, you may well ask, then why did they not provide the facility two years ago? Ah, well, it was different then.

The simple encashment card was first introduced purely as an anti-fraud device. Thieves had been stealing the handbags in Harrods, leaving off to the airport or ferry terminal and enjoying a 24-hour spree on the Continent with cheque book and cash card.

The key condition to thwarting this game is making sure you never, in any circumstance, carry cheque book and eurocheque card together. Some success for the eurocheque encashment card in stemming fraud is claimed.

However, customers have been complaining to the banks that the card has a major drawback: it is not very widely accepted by banks abroad. Increasingly, particularly in France and Spain, customers are finding that their request for cash is met with a blank refusal. This can be rather inconvenient if it leaves you stranded without a peseta.

In contrast, the uniform eurocheque is as widely used as an everyday cheque on the continent as the high street banks' chequebooks are here. By joining the eurocheque system, the British banks are linking up with Europe's banking system.

Although the new card has the disadvantage of cost,

there are advantages, not least its total acceptability. While the encashment card could be used only to withdraw cash from a bank, the uniform eurocheque can be used just like your usual cheque, to buy goods in a store, to pay for a meal or hotel room, and get cash. And, unlike travellers cheques, you do not have to pay for them in advance.

All the large banks, by strange coincidence, charge £3.50 a year for the card. And all of them will automatically reissue the card when it expires, always on December 31. Lloyds, National Westminster, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, Co-op and Yorkshire banks have introduced the card this spring so for the first year you will not get a full 12 months' worth of use out of the card. Royal Bank of Scotland, more thoughtfully, is charging only £2 for 1985.



However, if you apply for a first card later in the year, probably after October, your card will be issued for the whole of 1986 and you will have rather more than £3.50 worth on this first card.

The next charge is 1.25 per cent of the value of the cheque you write out which goes to the foreign bank handling the cheque. In some cases you will be asked to pay this at the time of the transaction but, if you are not, then it will be deducted from your account when the cheque arrives home. This applies both for withdrawing cash and buying goods.

The final cost is the fee per cheque which your own bank imposes. This is generally around 30p per cheque and is automatically deducted from your account.

The amount of cash you can

withdraw on one cheque has just been increased to £100 and the same guarantee applies to the value of each cheque if you are buying goods, or rather, the equivalent in the local currency. However, you can use as many cheques as you need to make up the cost of more expensive items. The £100 limit is £25 more than is shown on existing cards but, even if your card displays the old £75 limit, you can still claim the £100 maximum.

Uniform eurocheques can be used in every European country and beyond. From Albania to USSR. The newest member is Cyprus. Italy does not issue its own eurocheques (it is constrained by foreign exchange restrictions) but will accept them.

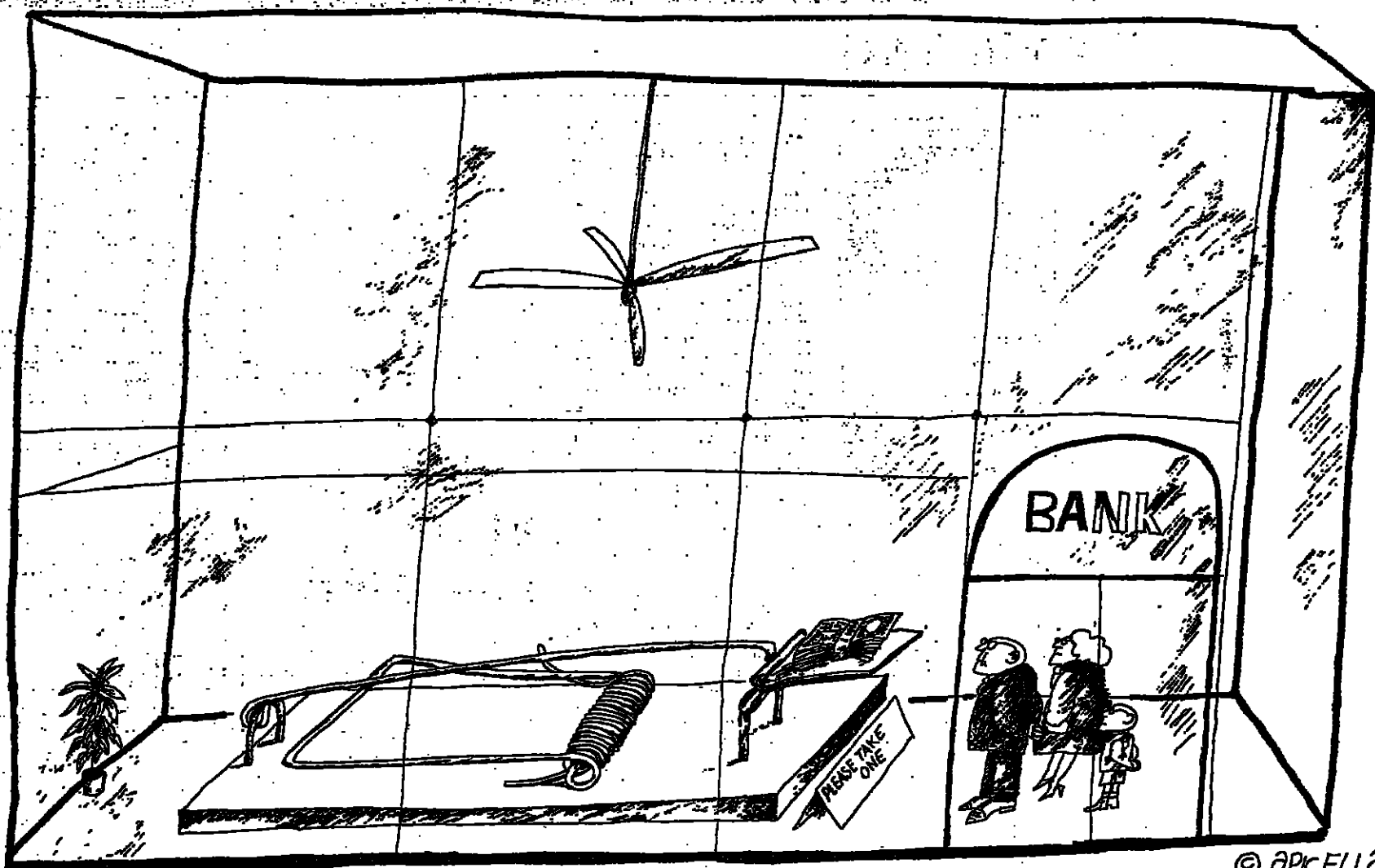
They are, however, more widely accepted in some countries than others and, particularly if you are visiting Egypt or Russia, you should take another back-up source of currency.

Some foreign banks may still ask you for identification over and above the cheque guarantee card. This is extremely irritating and superfluous but if the cashier says "no passport, no money" there is nothing you can do about it but pay their rules.

You can use the Midland Bank eurocheque card in some cash machines operated by Sistema 4B in Spain. This pilot scheme has proved extremely popular and Lloyds and National Westminster are planning to add the service later. From July the Midland card will also be usable in UK cash machines.

The limit is £200 per week. In addition to this amount available with your normal cash card. There is no charge if you qualify for free banking but you must ask your bank manager for a separate PIN number.

Moreover, you can, should you wish, use eurocheques in this country both for cash and for purchases. If you do, there is no 1.25 per cent fee to pay and, if you qualify for "free" banking, no cheque charge either. Altogether, eurocheques can be used in 45 million retailers in 25 countries and 200,000 bank branches in 39 countries. Once the cash machine facility is widespread, that will be really useful.



© APC/ELLA

Cut-price tax help

A GROUP of accountants aiming to bring tax advice to the masses is offering a fixed fee service to fill out your tax return. They have formed a company, called Taxline, to handle the tax problems of PAYE employees whose only option, if they cannot manage their own affairs, is to pay an expensive accountant.

Taxline charges £15 a year plus VAT and in return will deal with your income tax return, obtain tax refunds if possible and will give advice throughout the year. If they manage to get you a tax re-

fund they charge a commission of 10 per cent excluding the first £15. So, for a tax refund of £30 you would have to pay an extra £15.50 plus VAT to Taxline.

Taxline is based at 181 Merton Road, South Wimbledon, London SW19 1ER.

Mortgage rise

NATIONAL Westminster Bank, having been the bargain-buys among mortgages for some weeks, is falling into line. Although the banks have been reducing their base rates, they have not fallen far enough for NatWest to sustain its lower home loan rate, and from June 1, they are increasing this by 0.625 per cent. For repayments starting on July 5, a repayment mort-

gage will cost 13.5 per cent and an endowment 14 per cent. These rates are still below building society charges, which show no signs of coming down for some months yet.

Interest up

SUNDAY is not a day of rest for your money and, from tomorrow, any you have invested in National Savings Income Bonds and Deposit Bonds will be even busier. Just as talk is hotting up of interest rates falling, these investments will pay an extra 0.5 per cent giving 13.25 per cent. This figure is subject to tax but National Savings is virtually the only place left which still pays out interest without deducting tax for you.



"We also offer sympathy..."

Open days

NATIONAL Westminster Bank today starts opening on Saturday mornings in 32 branches. The branches, rising in number to 200 by the end of the year, have been specially dressed up with foldaway interview booths, video displays and blinds over the counters. Some will provide television for children. The staff will also be specially decorated and the whole operation titled 'SatWest' (instead of NatWest, get it?). Unfortunately the staff will be so busy giving saving and loan advice, that they will not be cashing cheques. There is, of course, the cash machine.

Christine Stopp reassesses a favourite savings scheme

Policies for profit

THE traditional with-profits life insurance policy has for many years been a favourite and easily accessible way of saving for the future. Until Budget Day last year, investors benefited from the addition of life assurance premium relief to their savings, effectively boosting the regular amount saved by more than 16 per cent.

Traditionally such life policies have put up quite a good showing — or at least, the top performers have. For the years ending February 1, 1982, 1983 and 1984 respectively, the top performing policies in the industry grew to £2,004, £2,078 and £2,268 on a monthly premium of £10. These figures are for a male investor aged 30 when he took out the policy.

For the ten years to February 1, 1982, the average annual inflation rate annual yield on the policy was 13.4 per cent. For the period to 1983, the top policy beat inflation, and so did the top policy for the year ending in 1984, when the net annual yield was 15.2 per cent, compared with average annual inflation of 13 per cent.

However, in 1984 the Chancellor's axe fell on life assurance premium relief, which was abolished overnight. The effect was bound to hit results on with-profits policies.

The survey from which the above figures are taken, in May's edition of Money Management, shows the yield figure stripped of the effect of L.A.P.R. to give a return of only 12.2 per cent against 13 per cent inflation.

Looking at these figures over the three-year period, with and without the benefit of premium relief, it is clear that sometimes with-profits policies with heat inflation, and sometimes they won't. The loss of the relief makes their ability to do so less certain. Remember that if the return on the policy does not beat inflation, the investor sets a negative that these Member also that these are the top performing policies. Between the top and the bottom performer there can be a world of difference.

Top ten life companies 10 years to Feb. 1, 1985 (£30 a month, Man aged 30)	Unit trust performance (median fund in sector) 10 years to April 1, 1985 (£20 invested monthly)
Scottish Amicable..... 8,210	UK Equity Income..... 7,013
Standard Life..... 7,902	UK General..... 7,114
Norwich Union..... 7,793	UK Growth..... 6,829
Scottish Widows..... 7,762	International..... 6,159
Ecclesiastical..... 7,338	Japan..... 7,418
Turnbridge Wells..... 7,308	North America..... 5,551
Equitable..... 7,297	
Friends Provident..... 7,271	
Scottish Life..... 7,230	
Clerical, Medical & General..... 7,151	

Source: Money Management

Source: Unit Trust Association

years to 1985 (The difference in results between these and the figures quoted above is because the basic premium was raised to £30 for this year to bring the survey more into line with today's typical investment.) The companies listed here also do very well over longer terms, and have frequently appeared in the top figures over previous years as well.

Another important factor is bonuses. A with-profits policy includes an element of life cover, but only a fairly small one. The life company need, therefore, make only very small investment returns to cover its potential liabilities under the policy, whereas cover side of the policy, investment excesses occur, and are distributed to policyholders by means of bonuses.

There are two types of bonus: reversionary and terminal. Reversionary bonuses are announced every year, and accrue to the policy to be paid out when it matures. Once given, they cannot be lost. Terminal bonuses are additional amounts added to the policy when it is finally cashed in, or when the policyholder dies and a claim is made against the policy.

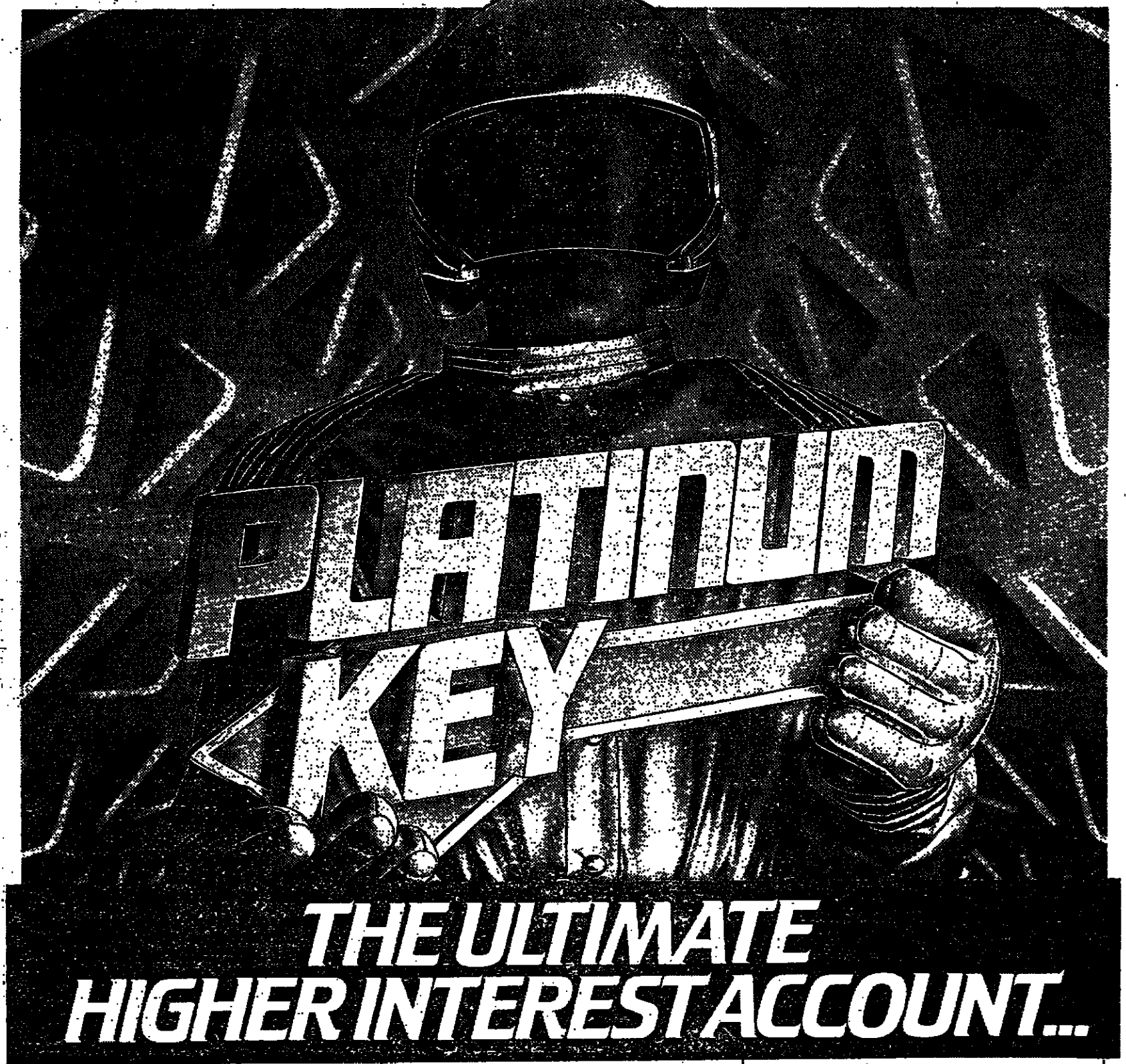
The returns on with-profits policies have come to depend a great deal on the bonus system. For the top performers we show, the percentage of the maturity value made up of terminal bonuses is between 25 and almost 40 per cent. So, while the bonuses can't disappear, as a temporary price gain on a unit trust can, they rely on the investment management skill of the life company and the general investment climate over the policy term. The bonus can also be used to manipulate the performance of policies. The loss of performance as a result of the disappearance of premium relief may well be masked because of this.

Bonuses, like stock markets, have been high over recent years, and there has been a lot of speculation that the bubble must burst: bonuses will have to take a sharp fall, and policy maturity values will be hit. It hasn't happened this year, and bonuses show every sign of being higher than ever.

In spite of this, life offices' premium income has dropped over the last year. The public is obviously discouraged by the loss of relief, which was very much used as a marketing prop by life companies. Without the relief, other investments look much more attractive by comparison: the small advantage of some life cover with a with-profits policy could be had much more cheaply through a term insurance policy which has no investment element.

In order to show some comparison with the sort of results achievable with life policies, our table also includes results through regular savings plans investing in unit trusts. The two sets of figures are not strictly comparable for two reasons: first, the unit trust results are based on a £20 a month regular investment, whereas the life policy figures premiums are £30 a month; and second, the life policy figures show only the top performers of the industry, whereas the unit trust figures represent the median fund in the unit trust sector.

As the figures show, in spite of these disadvantages, three unit trust sectors showed a median performance over ten years of more than £7,000 — comparable with the lower ten results with a premium which is 50 per cent higher than the unit trust contribution. The investor may not be absolutely convinced that with-profits policies are old hat, but they must give him plenty of food for thought.



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Sara Webb explains why fund managers are anxiously waiting for the results of a distribution test

Offshore battle claims its first victim

IF YOU invest in offshore funds, do you know whether they definitely have distributor status or not?

The reason I ask is because with distributor funds, which distribute the dividends according to certain requirements set out in the 1984 Finance Act, the investor pays capital gains tax on profits at 30 per cent, after a £5,000 allowance. But with non-distributor funds, the profits are taxed as income and most investors will already have used up their allowance with their salary.

The problem with distributor status is that it is awarded retrospectively.

The first round of applications has reached the technical division of the Inland Revenue and already there has been a casualty. Fund managers are getting hot under the collar for fear that more funds could follow suit.

Whether or not a fund achieves distributor status affects how the investors are taxed. With distributor funds, the income is distributed and taxed as income, while the capital gain is used to increase the unit price. When units are cashed in, the profits are taxed as capital gain.

With non-distributor or accumulator funds, income and capital gain are rolled up to increase the unit price and the profits on disposal are taxed as income.

To acquire distributor status, the fund must distribute at least 85 per cent of the income and cannot place more than 10 per cent of its

assets in any single company, among other requirements. The fund must go through the rigmarole of submitting audited accounts to the Inland Revenue each year and, for example, it achieves distributor status for say two years, but fails to acquire the coveted distributor status in the third year, that will cancel out its qualification over the previous two years.



Your wealth is safe in our hands.

To all intents and purposes, the fund then becomes an accumulator and the profits are taxed accordingly. There is no time-apportionment to take account of the period when the fund was a distributor and investors will simply have to rewrite their tax returns.

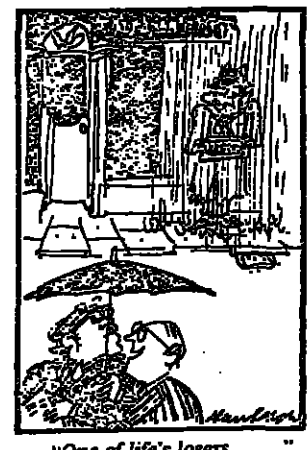
The first casualty is Fidelity Australia Fund. The 1984 Finance Act did not come out until July which meant that for the first six months of 1984, after the initial announcement regarding changes in the funds' taxation, fund managers were uncertain of the exact ground rules for distributor status. Fidelity Australia Fund came a cropper on the stipulation that no more than 10 per cent of the assets can be invested in a single trading company, during the fund's accounting period January 1 to February 28, 1984.

Obviously this is not the sort of technical hitch which fund managers are likely to fall for again. Although Fidelity have had discussions with the Inland Revenue, they have now decided to notify investors of the change in status and, according to the technical manager, Paul Forsyth, the fund will not be applying for distributor status in future.

In this particular instance, the tax implications for investors are not severe because like many funds in the Australian sector, Fidelity Australia Fund has made a loss since January 1, 1984 when the new tax treatment came into force. So UK residents have no gains to be taxed on — if that's any consolation. About 80 per cent of the investors are expatriates who will need to cash in or bed-and-breakfast their units before taking up residence again in the UK if they want to avoid paying tax on

any future gains the fund might make.

If anything, this round of applications has revealed scope for change in the legislation concerning offshore funds. Martin Brown, who looks after Henderson's Guernsey-based funds, hopes to galvanise fund managers into action with the aim of taking a number of proposals for change to ministerial level. Such changes, however, are unlikely to appear in the 1985 Finance Act.



Martin Brown is not exactly a disinterested party — Henderson's Prime Residential Property Offshore Fund is currently under the scrutiny of the Inland Revenue, and he fears that it may not pass the distributor test.

One of the main concerns is over the six-month time limit

within which distributions must be made. It takes 2-3 months to prepare and publish audited accounts, making provisions for the payment of dividends. The ball is then in the Revenue's court, but the technical division appears to be taking at least a couple of months to deal with applications.

The danger is that if the discussions or appeals against the Revenue's decisions go beyond the six-month limit, there are no provisions for rectifying the situation by, for example, topping up a distribution which falls short of the requisite amount.

Other fund managers have encountered problems interpreting the legislation and feel that clarification over computing UK equivalent profits, dividends, and fund turnover is due, though the general consensus of opinion is that the Inland Revenue has been "obstructive rather than constructive" in its behaviour. The Inland Revenue would not reveal how many funds had applied for distributor status because "this is confidential information," though it added that "almost all those who applied have been accepted."

The real problem faces the investor. As one of Tyndall's managers pointed out the delays in certification mean that an investor who sold his shares in one of their funds in March or April 1984 still doesn't know whether to put down income or capital gain on his tax form.

could for very little effort put pounds in your pocket. The book is available from Rosters Ltd, 90 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8UN.

OUR feature last week about the financial implications of going into hospital was regrettably wrongly bylined. The article was by Linda Lennard.

Tips for savers

Rosemary Burr has written "100 Money Saving Ideas" which, for a layout of £2 plus 50p postage and packing

PEACE of mind has become a very marketable commodity, particularly among consumers. Extended guarantees are one obvious example; legal expenses insurance is another.

The standard arguments trotted out by legal expenses insurers are that going to law is expensive and that you might not get your money back even if you win. And woe betide you if you lose.

Moreover, with an insurance company behind you, as a potential litigant, you would be in a much stronger tactical position to obtain what you want. Without insurance and being at risk yourself, it is likely that you will be pressured into accepting a low offer of settlement.

The tables below provide an indication of the costs of family legal expenses policies; these come in two main forms, either as separate policies altogether (table 1), or as optional add-ons to existing car or household insurance (table 2).

Most companies set a limit on how much cover you get: the limit generally applies both to each individual claim that you make and also to the total amount of cover available in one year, irrespective of the number of claims that you make.

For instance, Sun Alliance will indemnify you for up to £25,000 per claim and for a total of £75,000 in one year.

Lawrence Lever puts legal insurance on trial Plaintiff cries

Watch out for low claim limits: cover of only £5,000 per claim would not, for example, be anything like adequate should you be involved in a large court case. Bear in mind moreover, that with add-on policies — of which there is only a selection on table 2 — you are tied to the particular household or car insurer. The exception is Hambro Legal Protection, whose policy can be linked to your existing policy and is available through insurance brokers. Note the £5,000 limit, however.

The width of cover will vary, although if you buy a policy it will generally cover not just you but also other members of your close family living in your home. The sort of things covered are consumer disputes, disputes with neighbours, personal injuries claims, employment grievances and motoring offences. And the policies usually cover you whether you are taking or defending

legal action, although in the case of motoring prosecutions, only if you subsequently turn out to be innocent.

What you have to look out for particularly with legal expenses insurance, is the small print.

Across the board, insurers will reserve the right not to take a case on even though the facts fall squarely within the area of cover. So if you do not have a reasonable chance of success the insurance company will not take you on.

Secondly, pre-existing claims are excluded. If you buy a policy and already have a legal dispute, it will not be covered. DAS actually says that disputes arising in the first three months of your first year's policy are excluded.

Particularly trouble-torn and common disputes are also excluded: very little cover is available for matrimonial disputes (Family Legal Benefits do provide limited cover after the first year) and DAS, along with IRPC, exclude lease or tenancy disputes where the policyholder lives in a block of flats.

There are not too many "excesses" around in this area. Hambro Legal Protection have a flat £30 excess on each claim. Economic goes up to £50 and Legal Benefits varies between £10 or £50, depending on the level of cover you choose.

TABLE 1: SEPARATE POLICIES

NAME	PREMIUM	COVER	CONTACT
Sun Alliance Family Legal Expenses	£56	£25,000 per claim Max. £75,000	Through solicitors of Sun Alliance, 0403-64141, ext 3090
IRPC Legal and Personnel Legal Advisory Club	£20-£45	£35,000 per claim No limit	0455-614349
DAS Family Legal Protection	£64-£68	£25,000	0272-290321
Barclays	£36	£25,000	Through Barclays branches
Legal Benefits Ltd Family Legal Benefits	£80-£120	£5,000-£25,000 per claim Max. £250,000	01-681 1491

TABLE 2: ADD ON POLICIES

NAME	PREMIUM	EXCESS	COVER PER CLAIM
Hambro Housley Family Legal Protection	£5	£30	£5,000
Allstate Homesteader Contents	£18	—	£10,000
Economic Homecare	£15-£30	£50	£5,000-£30,000
Endsleigh Homecare/Home Plan/Economy Plan	£20	—	£10,000

Unsure about Extrasure

ABTA has changed its mind on travel insurance again, reports David Worsfold

NEXT week the Association of British Travel Agents announces details of its newly approved travel insurance policy.

ABTA have decided to switch their much sought-after approval from the Extrasure policy that has attracted so much criticism for not covering loss of valuables to a new policy called Supersure Plus in the middle of the holiday season. This is ABTA's third change of heart in the last 18 months and it has caused considerable controversy.

When ABTA returned its approval to the Extrasure policy last year, it said it was looking for a period of stability and told members that it had signed a three-year contract to market the Extrasure scheme. It now appears that no contract was signed. Nevertheless, this has not stopped the brokers who arranged the scheme, Kersley Procter and Day, and the insurers, the recently rescued Insurance Corpora-

tion of Ireland, from talking about seeking compensation from ABTA, through the courts if necessary.

The original decision to drop the cover for valuables from the Extrasure policy was taken with ABTA's approval in order to be able to offer a cheap policy without cutting the very high levels of commission paid to ABTA members for selling the scheme. Under Extrasure, the travel agent took a massive 40 per cent of your premium. Kersley Procter and Day another 7 1/2 per cent and ABTA 2 1/2 per cent. Only a half of what you paid went to the insurance company.

After the collapse of the insurance company backing the Extrasure policy the Insurance Corporation of Ireland, and its subsequent rescue by the Irish Government, ABTA decided to look around for another scheme. The policy that finally won ABTA's approval is arranged through a firm of brokers called Jardine Glanville and is backed by the highly reputable General Accident.

The premiums for the Supersure Plus scheme are about the same as for Extrasure but the cover has been changed. Out goes the tour operator's failure cover and unlimited medical expenses.

Restored to the Supersure Plus plan is the insurance cover for loss of valuables such as jewellery, radios and cameras.

The limit for the payment of medical expenses has been set at a generous £1 million but the payment for total disablement has been reduced from £25,000 to £15,000.

The premium for two weeks in Europe will be £11.85 per person with the bonus of a 30 per cent reduction for children under 12. The biggest shock for the travel agent will come when he looks at the commission he can earn from selling the policy. His share of your premium has been cut from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. While the brokers arranging the scheme have agreed to take only 2 1/2 per cent, the same as ABTA's cut. This leaves a much healthier 60 per cent to go to the insurer, which is why the cover for valuables has been reinstated without any significant increase in the premium.

Extrasure, meanwhile, is still available through travel agents who can still earn 40 per cent commission on it. As we reported a few weeks ago, Extrasure has decided to offer cover for valuables on payment of an additional £3. This wasn't enough to save them from the ABTA chop.

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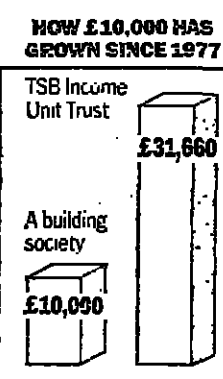


TSB INCOME UNIT TRUST: THE INFLATION BEATER

Dedicated to providing an above average income and sound capital growth from selected investments in UK equities, TSB Income Unit Trust has produced an impressive performance for its investors.

Over the last four full years they have seen their net income payments rise by a healthy average of 13.75% each year.

And over the same period they have seen the value of their investment capital increase by 91.41%.



HOW £10,000 HAS GROWN SINCE 1977	INCOME YOUR CAPITAL WOULD HAVE EARNED SINCE 1977
TSB Income Unit Trust	A building society ordinary share account
£31,660	£304 1977
	£625 1978
	£831 1979
	£1,050 1980
	£890 1981
	£854 1982
	£675 1983
	£704 1984
	£5,933
	£6,304

Calculated as at 30th April 1985 (Offer to bid, "income" units).

Figures net of basic rate tax.

Indeed, the Trust's performance since launch has been excellent, as these charts show.

TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST: ALL OUT FOR GROWTH

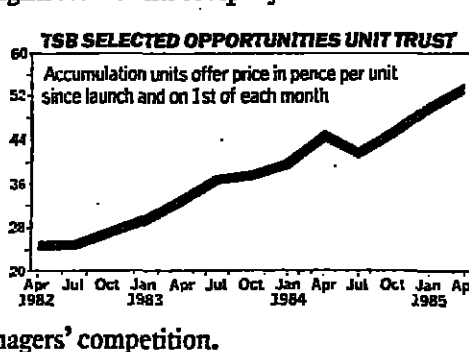
With its three-tiered strategy and its commitment to the UK market, TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust goes all-out for growth.

For the long term, our experts select companies with strong management ideas and good prospects for high rates of growth.

Over the medium term they choose companies in sectors which are due for an all-round up-turn.

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As the figures show, initial investors have already seen a 107% rise in the value of their units in the last three years, and we confidently expect this trend to continue. Which is why our Managers have chosen this Trust as their entry for the 1985 "Daily Telegraph" Unit Trust Managers' competition.



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Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. And you should regard your investment as being a medium to long-term one.

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Bonus Application Form valid until May 31st 1985

To: Fred Shaftoe, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 63432/3/4

TSB Income Unit Trust:

I/We wish to invest £ (min £250) in income/accumulation units

TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust:

I/We wish to invest £ (min £250) in income/accumulation units

at the offer price(s) ruling on the day of receipt of this application, and to include a bonus of 1% of free extra units if I/we invest a total of £500 or more (2% if I/we invest a total of £5,000 or more) by May 31st 1985.

†Delete as appropriate. Holders of income units will receive twice-yearly payments from each Trust. Holders of accumulation units will have their income reinvested. (If no unit preference is indicated, accumulation units will automatically be issued.)

We offer generous Share Exchange facilities to investors already holding shares. Tick here for details ☐

BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Forenames)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper. This offer is only open to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

We also offer an attractive, low-cost regular savings scheme: TSB Unitbuilder. For full details, tick here ☐

FACTS ABOUT THESE TRUSTS

Managers: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association).

Investment Management Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited.

Trustees: General Accident Assurance and Trust Co. Company Limited.

Charges: 2% on initial purchase; thereafter 1.5% p.a. (plus VAT) on each Fund's value, deducted from each Trust's income. The Trust Deeds allow for a maximum charge of 1.5% p.a.; the Managers will give unitholders at least 3 months' written notice of any change. These charges are included in the offer price of units.

Selling units: Units in any of our Trusts can be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate.

Renunciation: Payable to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request.

Prices: Valid: Offer price for income units (estimated current gross yield for TSB Income Unit Trust: 10.5p-4.9p for accumulation units; estimated current gross yield for TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust: 5.4p-2.4p; all on May 30, 1985. Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press.

Income distributions: TSB Income Unit Trust January 25th and July 25th (dividends made after April 24th will receive first income distribution January 25th 1986); TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust May 10th and November 6th.

Registered Office: Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Registered in England and Wales, number 1629925.



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Platinum is one of the rarest metals on earth and one of the most valuable. It is produced in exceptionally small quantities and the total world output is only around 80 tonnes annually, compared with about 1,200 tonnes of gold.

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Should you wish to sell your bars we guarantee to repurchase them at any time. For full information on Johnson Matthey platinum bars, and an application form, simply complete and send the coupon by Freepost.

Please send me full information on Johnson Matthey platinum bars

Name

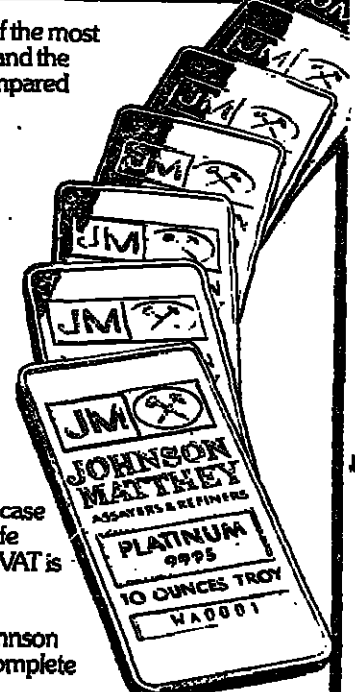
Address

Postcode

Johnson Matthey

Platinum Marketing Department, Freepost, London N14 6BR

Telephone: 01-882 6111 Extension 2136 (also 24-hour answering service 01-882 0661)



Day out in Norfolk: picture by Don McPherson

From tomorrow travel by British Rail should be simpler but not always cheaper. Ian McMaster reports on some fare deals

How a weekend return came to the end of the line

FROM May 12, British Rail is going to make a number of important changes to its fare structure and to the discounts available to railcard holders. These changes seem certain to cause more confusion about which fare is the best value for each journey: many journeys will also be more expensive.

There are currently nearly two million railcard holders. By far the biggest group — one million of them — hold Senior Citizen railcards, now available to both women and men aged 60 and over. The other main cards are for young persons (650,000 holders), families (280,000) and the disabled (20,000). Railcards cost £12, with the exception of the 57 senior citizen card which can be used only for day returns —

and, in return, holders can obtain a range of discounts on British Rail, Sealink and Motorail services. Full information about the qualifying conditions and all the benefits is given in leaflets available from most British Rail stations.

While the details differ slightly between the various cards (disabled people can have an accompanying adult travel at a reduced rate too, and up to four children under 16 can travel for £1 with an adult holding a family or senior citizen card), the basic discount structure is the same. There is a 50 per cent discount on ordinary single and return tickets and on standard and off-peak day returns. There is also a 15 per cent discount on Saver return tickets, available for a

number of longer journeys, particularly those to or from London. Saver tickets are valid for a month and are cheaper than ordinary returns, but have certain restrictions on the journey times. Peak commuter times are excluded for journeys to or from London. Finally, there is no discount on weekend returns.

This differential pattern of discounts can make the calculation of the cheapest ticket a considerable mathematical exercise. You have to work out whether a Saver with a 15 per cent discount is cheaper than a half price ordinary return or day return. In practice, it is often necessary to rely on British Rail staff to point you in the right direction.

Since the current situation is so confused, it might be thought that change could only be for the better. Unfortunately, this is not the case. From May 12, the weekend return ticket will disappear. Cheap day returns will generally only be available for journeys under 60 miles, except in the South-east of England. To compensate, Savers will be more widely available than at present: they will cover all journeys over 60 miles and some shorter trips outside London and the South-east.

For railcard holders, the discount on Savers goes up from 15 per cent to 34 per cent but the discount on single tickets and ordinary returns goes down from 50 per cent to 34 per cent. For day returns the discount remains at 50 per cent.

Clearly some journeys will be cheaper than before. If you could previously obtain a Saver for your journey, then you will get a larger discount. On the other hand, day return journeys over 60 miles outside the South-east will be more expensive: you will have to buy a Saver rather than a half price cheap day return. This will particularly hit people travelling to the coast from inland stations, or coming to London for the day.

The reduced discount on standard return journeys will hit passengers who cannot take advantage of Saver tickets — those travelling at peak times and people, such as students, who wish to return more than a month after their outward journey. The fact that this latter group might find it cheaper to buy a Saver

for the outward journey and a single ticket for the return only adds to the confusion. Even more confusing is the advice in the latest British Rail leaflet — "Rail Card Changes From May 12, 1985" — which informs railcard holders that they may find that a Saver or a cheap day return is cheaper than a single ticket when making a single journey.

In all cases where fares will rise, many people with disabilities will be doubly penalised since not only will their own fare cost more, but the fare for a companion will also go up. This will particularly affect people, such as those who are visually handicapped, who rely on a companion to make the journey possible by providing assistance either during the journey or

at either end. The added expense will further restrict the mobility of people with disabilities. The Disability Alliance, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and the National Federation of the Blind have joined together to protest to British Rail and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Given all the confusion, why are the changes being introduced? It is clear that purely commercial considerations are responsible for the change in the general fare structure. The Government is seeking to reduce the public service obligation payment — given to BR to run "unprofitable services" — by some £200m by 1988. Likewise it is commercial considerations that have led to the reduced

discounts for railcard holders. It appears that Inter-City now wishes to see railcard holders make a greater contribution to revenue, even though journeys undertaken with these cards are already profitable to BR.

This is especially disturbing since railcard holders include many of the poorest members of the population who are now, as in many other areas, being asked to bear the brunt of the Government's financial stringency.

Ironically, one of the original aims of the changes was to simplify the fares structure. With the over-riding emphasis given to short-term profitability, both simplification and British Rail's aim to be a public service appear to have taken a back seat.

Lindsay Cook on why the Inland Revenue is chasing postmen, hairdressers, waiters and dustmen

Why the taxman wants a tip

IF A waiter doesn't smile next time you give him a hefty tip, it could be because he is calculating just how much of your generosity he will be allowed to keep once the taxman has got his share.

The Inland Revenue regard any payment received for doing a job as just as taxable as wages so tax officers throughout the country try to track down and tax any gratuities, be it a fiver tucked into the back pocket of a hairdresser, or a 20p piece placed under a saucer in a tea shop.

A recent exercise by tax officers in one region found that hotel and catering staff in some larger well-known establishments received up to £7,500 in a year tips. The review yielded some £850,000 in tax and the lowest average agreed tips per full time worker was £750 per annum.



"You must realise Climpson that every time the wheel of fortune spins somebody has to lose."

most members of the public. Postmen who regularly work on the same rounds are expected to get about £150 worth of tips in the season of goodwill. Milkmen don't fare quite so well and are reckoned to be worth £100 at Christmas by their customers.

Newspaper delivery boys and girls are unlikely to come within the tax net as they usually earn less than £2,205 a year, and can therefore keep all their gifts.

In hairdressing salons, stylists may well get a pound from each customer for the hour's attention; men on average spend less time and money with their hairdresser and tip accordingly.

Taxi drivers also expect to have a pocket full of gratuities by the end of every working day, while dustmen tend to be on the receiving end once a year.

Generosity is not always shown in cash. Barstaff may be asked to have a drink with a customer and as far as the Inland Revenue is concerned they can keep it. But if there's a kitty behind the bar for tips then the taxman is interested.

Those workers who get gifts such as a bottle or case of Scotch from their employers or customers should technically pay tax on the full value of the gifts, if they earn more than £2,500 a year, but the Inland Revenue is not interested in chasing after such trivial sums. But if, as part of a job, a worker regularly receives cheap or free produce every week, then the Revenue would want its slice.

Last year the Inland Revenue decided that Christmas parties costing the boss more than £30 per head should be added to the worker's income and taxed accordingly.

It's all part of the tightening up by the tax authorities to get hold of any income missing around the black economy and to discourage generous allowances and perks.

The taxmen are seeking help from the public to trace income that is not being taxed. It is estimated that the Treasury loses about £4,000 million a year through workers failing to own up to everything on their tax returns. Now the Association of Her Majesty's Tax Inspectors has suggested that members of the public who provide information to track down some of the missing just should receive more generous rewards. The limit for such payments is currently £50, however much is recovered.

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Because you'll immediately start earning 9.52% net. And you'll have instant access, providing you leave over £500 after taking out some of your money.

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Another clever thing with this account is that your interest is added twice a year. So over a whole year your money builds up to earn you an extremely healthy 9.75% net. It's equivalent to 13.93% gross for basic rate taxpayers.

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If you're not especially interested in instant access, you can start a Seven Day Account with as little as £100. And unlike some societies' accounts, you'll always earn the high rate current at the time. Even if your balance drops to as little as £1.

IT'S NO SEVEN DAY WONDER.

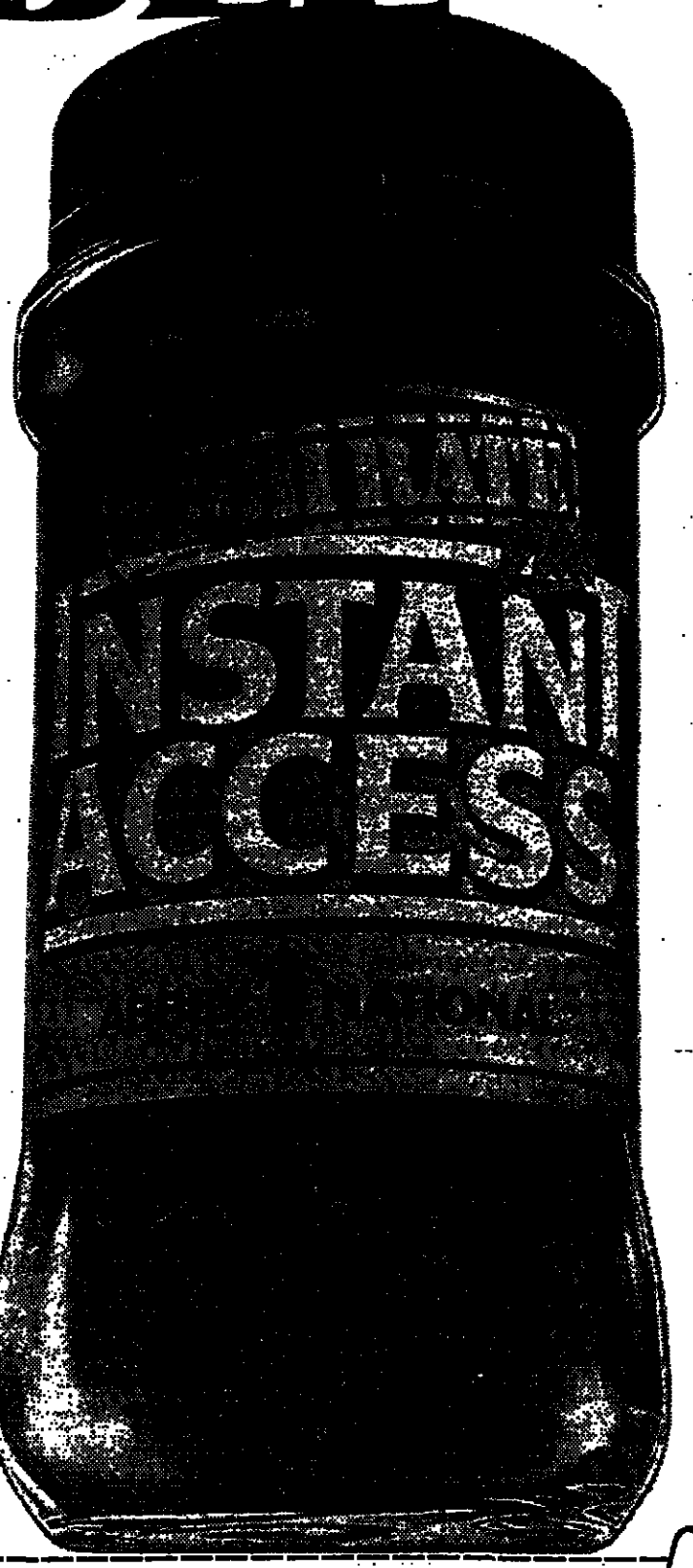
You can add to your account as and when you please up to the joint account limit of £500,000.

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To: Dept. 7.D.T., Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ

Full name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____

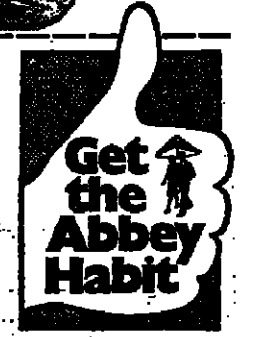
I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ to be invested in a Seven Day Account at my/our local branch in _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Please send me full details and an application card. I/We understand the rate may vary.

9.52% = 9.75% = 13.93%

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TRUSTEE STATUS

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M&G INITIAL OFFER INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND

THE NEW M&G INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND aims to provide investors with a high income, and one that can be expected to increase over the years, from an international portfolio of equities. The estimated gross starting yield is 6%. It will appeal particularly to people who think it is prudent to have some of their money invested overseas without sacrificing income.

An important part of M&G's reputation is based on providing steadily increasing income from high-yielding unit trusts. In addition we have led the way in the development of overseas trusts, with an investment team that includes specialists in all the important overseas stockmarkets. These two factors are now combined in The M&G International Income Fund.

We believe that there are at present a number of excellent opportunities around the world for buying shares with high yields. You should remember that exchange rate fluctuations may affect our ability to provide an increase in income every year. We expect the initial geographical spread to be broadly as follows:

USA 40% Hong Kong 10% Europe 7%
UK 20% Australia 8% Japan 5%
Gold shares 10%

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

During the initial offer (closing 31st May 1985) applications of £2,000 or more will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

Applications will be acknowledged and Certificates will be posted on or before 28th June 1985. Once the initial offer has closed units can be bought or sold on any business day at the prices then ruling by writing to or telephoning M&G (Unit Dealing Department), Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-283 5362.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Income units and Accumulation units are both available. Distributions on income units will be paid net of basic-rate tax on 1st June and 1st December, starting with an interim distribution on 1st December 1985. Income on Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and holders will receive an annual tax voucher starting in December 1986. Prices and yields will appear daily in the Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. Unit holders will receive a registered certificate for their units, issued by the Trustee, and a Managers' Report every six months. Management charges: A preliminary

charge of 5% of the value of each unit issued is included in the price and an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund will be deducted from its gross income. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. A copy of the Trust Deed may be inspected at the head office of the Trustee or at M&G's London Office. Auditors to the Fund: Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Taxation: The Fund does not pay tax on capital gains. Income is distributed (or retained) net of income tax at the basic rate. The Fund is a wider-range investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961, and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Application has been made to The Council of the Stock Exchange for the units to be admitted to The Official List. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc.

M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

INITIAL OFFER CLOSES 31st MAY

During the initial offer, which will close on 31st May 1985, applications of £2,000 or more will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

The Managers reserve the right to decline subscriptions at any time and you are recommended to apply as soon as possible, but in any event applications with cheques must reach us by 31st May 1985.

To: M&G Securities Limited,
Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ

Please invest £ in INCOME/ACCUMULATION units (delete as applicable or Income units will be issued) of The M&G International Income Fund at 50p each (minimum investment £500). My cheque, payable to M&G Securities Limited, is enclosed. APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE CHEQUES.

Are you an existing M&G Unitholder? YES/NO

02	MR/MS/MISS	FULL FORENAME(S)
SURNAME		
04	ADDRESS	
POST CODE		
AIG		

SIGNATURE
DATE
Regulated by (Savings) No. 90776 Reg. Office at above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

M&G SECURITIES

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st April 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £27,213. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £17,219, an extra £10,000.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st APRIL 1985

	5 YEARS APRIL 1980 to APRIL 1985	10 YEARS APRIL 1975 to APRIL 1985	15 YEARS APRIL 1970 to APRIL 1985
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,483	7,996	18,397
M&G Recovery	2,182	9,253	25,747
M&G SECOND	2,214	7,876	17,219
F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,104	5,931	11,294
Building Society Savings Account	1,496	3,839	7,213

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 3%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan. You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN
The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

MR/MS/MISS FULL FORENAME(S)

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

SP 361915

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLLMENT FORM

YOUR BANK SORTING CODE

PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT NO.

PLEASE PAY TO NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, 181, Molesham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting

Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) the sum of £ on the

day of 19 and continue to pay that amount on the

month/quarterly until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

DATE (SIGNATURE)

ADDRESS

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD., THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £20)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of

£ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscription to be invested in the Fund circled.

If no Fund is circled your plan will be linked to M&G SECOND.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL INCOME

AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN.

COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND RECOVERY

DIVIDEND SECOND

INTERNATIONAL GROWTH GOLD

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.

If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time minimum £20 and that I can reallocate my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Registered in England No. 90776

Regulated office at above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

M&G

THE M&G GROUP



Household appliances: top of the complaints league

Lindsay Cook explains how dissatisfied customers can put grumbles down on paper

The wise men in the middle

THE Chartered Institute of Arbitrators is still waiting to deal with a complaint about the services of a funeral director, six years after a code of practice was agreed for the industry.

A team of trained arbitrators has been ready and willing to adjudicate on any dispute with a member of the National Association of Funeral Directors since they agreed a code with the Office of Fair Trading. But to date no one has used it.

The code of practice, along with 19 others set up with trade associations under the aegis of the Office of Fair Trading, is intended to give customers a hearing without them having to take their case to a County or Small Claims Court.

The arbitrators are kept busy dealing with disputes on subjects ranging from electrical repairs to shirts damaged in the laundry. Heading the league table are household appliances, with 100,000 complaints in 1984 being made to Citizens Advice Bureaux and Trading Standards Departments and ultimately being passed on to the Office of Fair Trading for the arbitrators to deal with, if local agreement cannot be achieved.

Holidays also yield a great many complaints, when reality does not live up to the

paradise offered in brochures. In 1983 the Institute adjudicated on 335 cases for the Association of British Travel Agents.

British Telecom yielded some 90 cases in the year 1983-2, while the Post Office had 18 in six months. The Glass and Glazing Federation average 10 a year.

And the Office of Fair Trading would like more disputes with traders to be settled through the services of the arbitrators, and has produced a booklet to encourage more people to use the codes of practice.

I'm Going To Take It Further details how to steer a complaint through the procedure, which involves no public hearings as everything is dealt with on paper.

To have a complaint dealt with under the arbitration system, the customer has to pay a fee related to the amount of the claim. Generally this works out at £17.25 for claims up to £2,500, £23 for up to £5,000, rising to £40.25 for claims between £10,000 and £25,000. Thereafter £5.75 is added per £2,500. But some organisations such as the Post Office have their own scale of fees.

But this stage is only reached if the trade association cannot settle the dispute themselves to everyone's

satisfaction. The customer is then asked to fill in a form stating the details of their complaint.

The trader then fills in their side of the story and sends the form, together with registration fees to the Institute. The arbitrator then considers all the evidence on the form, together with any exhibits and statements from technical experts or witnesses.

It usually takes about two weeks for a decision to be reached, but occasionally the arbitrator asks for more information. In very complex cases, the decision might be that a court hearing would serve justice more fully. The fee is then refunded and the two parties are advised to go to court.

Should the arbitrators find in your favour, there's every chance the trader will pay up promptly, says the Office of Fair Trading. Under the scheme, the trader is given just three weeks to make the payment, and the trade associations, who want to show that the scheme really does work, will bring pressure to bear on any trader who is slow in paying.

Although the system is informal, the award is final and legally binding on both the claimant and the trader. He may be ordered to pay the customer's registration fee, in

addition to the compensation. But if you lose the case there's no second chance. It cannot then be taken to the courts, and there's only very limited right of appeal.

There's usually no limit to the amount you can claim under the arbitration system, whereas the Small Claims Courts have a limit of £500 in England and Wales. With disputes over larger amounts, dealt with under the County Court system, there's a risk that you could have to pay the trader's legal costs as well as your own.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances were the first organisation to agree a code of practice with the OFT in 1974. The latest code to be negotiated is designed to give greater protection to motorcyclists when buying new or used machines or having repairs or servicing work done. None of the codes have been scrapped once set up, although British Telecom now have their complaints dealt with under a revised code by the Office of Telecommunications.

Copies of the free booklet on the arbitration system are available from Room 310C, Office of Fair Trading, Field House, Bream's Buildings, London EC4A 1PR.

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HIGHER RATE
RIGHT RATE
FOR YOUR MONEY

FOR INVESTMENTS OF £5,000 AND ABOVE		
ANNUAL INTEREST	COMPOUND ANNUAL RATE	GROSS EQUIVALENT
10.03% NET	10.50% WITH INTEREST ADDED MONTHLY	15.01% [†]

FOR INVESTMENTS OF £1,000 AND ABOVE	
ANNUAL INTEREST	GROSS EQUIVALENT
10.03% NET	14.33% [†]

GOLD STAR INSTANT ACCESS. NO PENALTIES.

Invest £5,000 and above in Gold Star with Monthly interest and earn 10.50% compounded annual rate when full monthly interest is added to the account. Invest £1,000 and more and earn an attractive rate of 10.03% net annual interest. Call at your nearest branch or write to: Gateway Building Society, FREEPOST, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2BR. Stay one jump ahead.

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Balances below £1,000 pay 8.25% net - 11.79% gross equivalent. Basic rate income tax paid. 100% equivalent for basic rate taxpayers. Rates and terms may vary. Gateway Building Society, Administrative Centre, Gateway House, Durrington Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2QH. Established 1854. Assets over £1,350 million. Reserves over £250 million. Justice Status. Member of the Building Societies Association & Investors' Protection Scheme. District Offices and Agents throughout the UK.

WEEK-END MONEY PLUS GARDENING

How should I invest £1,000?

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

I HAVE been given a gift of £1,000, and would like to invest it for about ten years in a unit trust with the aim of maximum capital growth. I would like your advice on which company and which fund to choose. We are also considering saving £20 a month for about ten years in a unit trust. Could you also give some advice on that? — P.C., Rochester.

five and seven years. The trust names are followed by the phone numbers for inquiries.
Barclays Unicorn General Capital (01-534 5444); Framlington Capital (01-628 5181); NPI Growth (01-622 4200); Schroder UK Equity (01-638 8731); TSB Income (0284 62188); Henderson Income & Growth (01-638 5757).
You can, of course, get information on Barclays and TSB trusts through bank branches. Where an income fund is mentioned, buy accumulation units, so that the income is reinvested. Barclays, Framlington and the TSB also operate regular savings plans which would meet your requirements.

Family matters
MY BROTHER, a widower with no children, died in June leaving his estate to be divided equally between his two brothers and two sisters. The estate consisted of a house and

deposit bank account. His brother-in-law, the sole executor, divided the money in the bank account and this was received in September. Since then one sister has died leaving an only son.

Can you please tell me whether the fourth beneficiary would now be the deceased sister's heir or whether the proceeds from the sale of the house would now be divided between the remaining sister and brothers. There was no mention of descendants in the will.

The sole executor is elderly and infirm so what would happen should he die before the rest of the estate was administered? — D.W. Berks.

WHERE a beneficiary like your sister dies after a death of a testator, before the distribution of the testator's assets, she is still entitled to the legacy and her personal representatives receive the gift on behalf of her estate. Therefore, the share would pass in accordance with the terms of her own will or as on an intestacy.
If the sole executor dies before the rest of the estate is administered, one of two things will happen. Either the sole executor's executor will become the executor of the testator, assuming the sole executor died leaving a will, and the executor's executor will carry on the administration of the estate. Or, where a sole executor dies leaving no executor himself, the Probate Court (the Family Division of the High Court) will appoint an administrator to administer the deceased's estate. The administrator will be issued with "Letters of administration with will annexed" and in these circumstances the court will usually choose as the administrator the person who has the greatest interest in the estate.

Endowment plan
MY SON has a normal mortgage but has been asked by Sun Life of Canada to consider an endowment plan. This would give the added inducement of a cash bonus at the end of the term, but there is some risk of the final sum not being enough even to pay off the capital. Could you please advise? — K.L., Middlesbrough.

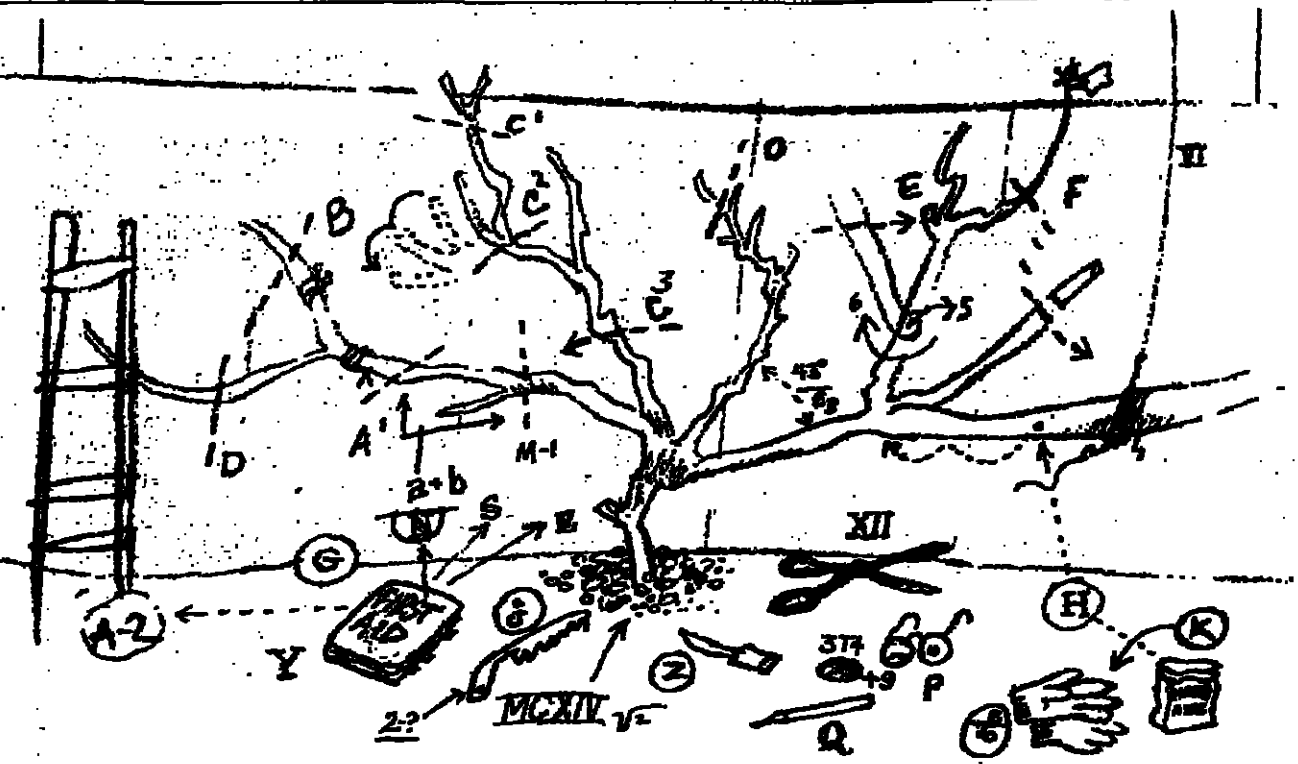
ENDOWMENT mortgages are very popular nowadays, but there is no reason for your son to swap to one if he is happy with his present mortgage arrangements. There will be expenses involved in making the change, and the new mortgage may be more expensive in terms of monthly outlay.

Sun Life of Canada have not been operating this sort of policy for many years in the UK, so they have not many results to compare with other companies, but such results as they do have show only an average performance. So if your son were worried about the final sum not being adequate, he could go to a company with a very good long term investment record (for example, Equity & Law, Sun Alliance or Norwich Union).
If he wants life insurance, he can get it much more cheaply by buying a term insurance policy, and if he has money to save, a unit trust regular savings plan would be more flexible, and probably perform better into the bargain.

Good returns
FOR health reasons I shall be retiring from teaching within the next 12 months with a pension of £3,600 and a lump sum of £11,000. I need high interest from the money and at the same time to preserve it from inflation. What is the most suitable investment? — T.H., Cricketh.

AT the moment there is a wide choice of investments to take regular income from your money very much higher than the rate of inflation and still preserving its value.

If you are prepared to accept some risk you might consider splitting some of your money between two or three unit trusts. Over the past five years the average unit trust as measured by the magazine Money Management has turned £1,000 into £2,630 including reinvested income. Within this, of course, some funds have done better and others worse. Over the same period (to the end of March), the Retail Price Index rose about 48 per cent.



Simple How To Do It Pruning Chart from Gardening, A Dictionary for Weedpullers, Slugcrushers, and Backyard Botanists, by Henry Beard and Roy McKie (Methuen, £2.95).

Sitting on a potato mountain

Rhubarb may be the crop of the month, but there's little doubt that spuds will be the crop of the year on Michael Hyde's allotment.

THE Arctic winds in late April arrested growth, with one apparent exception — rhubarb. It was the crop of the month. Handsome clumps of it now adorn our allotment landscape.
Potatoes, however, are likely to be the crop of the year on our own plot, if only for the reason that Nelson and I overestimated our needs (5lb of seed potatoes per 30ft row is considered to be about right). As it is, rather more than half our plot is now under spuds, which is perhaps no bad thing because potatoes are relatively easy for those whose energy diminishes with advancing years. Also to be considered are high market prices, and the fact that you get potatoes of your own choice from your own garden.

Our plantings include some first year Romano, saved from last year's certified seed (which the experts allow), and some nameless sets of my own, started from a packet of Thompson and Morgan's true potato seed two years ago to satisfy curiosity and harmless experiment. We also have Maris Piper and Drayton (parentage: Maris Piper and Red King Edward). Drayton is said to have the flavour of King Edward without its problems of too many tiny ones and too much slug damage.
Thus preoccupied, I have been choosing for light reading some of the romance which envelops the noble potato. It is probably the most important vegetable in the world, and certainly the most popular one here. The Incas of Peru were wise enough to cultivate it many centuries before it was brought to Europe. Good Queen Bess enjoyed potatoes for lunch; Marie Antoinette wore potato flowers in her hair for dinner; and the French Revolutionaries turned the Palace Gardens into a potato field.

Of the thousands of varieties over the years, only a few have longed for the Royal Kidney (1880), Duke of York (1891), Up-to-Date (1894), King Edward (1902), Great Scot (1909), Majestic (1911), and Kerr's Pink (1917). These appear in the 1985 Classified List published by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge.
One variety of unknown parentage but older than the century is the Pink Fir Apple (Tannenzapfen), a salad potato with a lasting new potato flavour and supplied this year by Marshall's of Wisbech.

potato in its place. Last year, following good practice, he had a moderately good second crop of large Desiree specimens in late October.
Modernists grow potatoes under black polythene, letting the tops come through, and baiting the soil for slugs. Organic gardeners like L. D. Hills experiment with "noddy" potato growing, covering them with compost instead. Irrigation is necessary in drought conditions, and a dressing of potash is not out of place. The Henry Doubleday Research Association recommends putting any surplus cut comfrey leaves and stalks between the rows.

Certainly we shall watch out for the irksome pests and loathsome diseases that the potato is heir to: sap sucking virus; spreading milds; voracious slugs; and the endless list of diseases like blight, blackleg, and eelworm, to mention only a frightening few. It is the commercial grower, however, who needs to worry about most of them. Dr Hessayan's recently published The Vegetable Expert gives much useful detection help, especially in the coloured photographs showing signs and symptoms of trouble.

I visited the Federation of British Artists' Flower Painting Exhibition at 17 Carlton Terrace in London and was pleased to see that a few allotment pictures had gate-crashed the show, which also included some skilful portraits of cabbages and other vegetables. For that matter, a drawing in our local parish magazine recently revealed aspects of artistic grace in a corner of our own allotments.

The RHS lecture by Peter Willmott at Vincent Square the other day invited us to consider Sense And Nonsense in Horticulture and to question whether weeding did anything more than kill weeds, whether the crocking of the bottom of plant pots encourages or impedes drainage, and whether bonemeal is as good as we think it is. There is plenty of food for thought as well as for the table on a cultivated allotment.

I was particularly moved by the story of an old Victorian variety called Fluke. Yes, Fluke. This was one of twelve potato plants grown by a Lancashire weaver from a seedpot or plum pinched from a potato field in 1841. Within the next decade, white skinned, pink eyed Fluke was being commonly grown in Lancashire and beyond. But even more popular was Fluke's beautiful patterned seedling, Paterson's Victoria of 1868, a variety which figures in the 1985 Classified List of Potatoes as a parent or forbear of more recent varieties.

The more you read about the magnificent potato, the more respect you show to your own growing crop. On our plot, we are presently alert for late frosts. Some people earth up their rows early to avoid exposing the young growth too soon. Others delay their planting. Early May is not too late.

A few years ago, a neighbouring market gardener successfully gambled on a late crop because the conditions and the price that year were right — for him. When Ronald Drinkwater, an amateur gardener of repute in our village, digs up a root of first earlies, he pops another chit.

Odd jobbing by Hilary Applegate

EVERGREENS retain their foliage all the year round, which is the reason for April and May being their preferred transplanting time. Root damage as usual has to be minimised. But plants which are moved in the autumn continue to transpire all winter, with little root growth to replenish supplies; hence the increased risk of desiccation. Spring move, into ground which is warming up, is followed by rapid establishment and a root system better able to cope with the ensuing water requirements of the plant. So

any planting still to be done needs to be effected soon.
Allow at least two weeks before the last expected frost for hardening off half hardy annuals. The aim is to gently acclimatise these glass raised plants to the harsher realities of life. A cold frame is ideal for this purpose; ventilation can be gradually increased until the last couple of days, when the lights (glass) can be removed altogether. For those without a frame, a south facing wall and a clear polythene covering together provide an acceptable makeshift hardening off area.

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8.4 News
8.15 Sport

9 News; Breakaway. Holiday news.
9 News Stand. Weeklies reviewed.
5 The Week in Westminster.
10 10 News.
10 11 From Our Own Correspondent.
12 12 News; Money Box. Finance advice.
12 17 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. No more quiz.
1 1 News: Any Questions? From Shanklin, Isle of Wight with Dr. Michael O'Donnell. Peter Marsh, Sue Shipman, John Palmer.
2 2 News: Afternoon Play: Westminster by Robert Ferguson.
3 3 News; Instant Sunshine. . . . Reasonably Together Again. . . . Amiable music and comedy show
3 34 Edinburgh: Golden Mile: the rise of Edinburgh's financial sector.
4 15 Enterprise. Finalists in the small business competition.
4 45 Less than a Pub.
5 5 Wildlife.
3 25 Week Ending: Jaundiced view of the News.
6 6 News.
25 Desert Island Discs: Shells
7 7 Stop the Week.
45 Baker's Dozen. Favourite records.
6 30 Saturday Night Theatre: Who Was Horseback Hall? by Michael Robson. France, 1916. . . in a base-camp hospital the writer Saki tells his last story.
10 10 The Great Peace-makers: Paul-Henri Spaak.
11 11 Science Now.
11 30 The Coldest Upstairs. Acts from London's fringe circuit.
12 12 News; weather; interval.
33 Shipping Forecast.

Wales (2pm): 4, 6 am As Radio 2, 6 30 News, 7 10 News, 7 15 Playday, 8 30 Sportscast, 9 15 The Gwersyl Selection, 1 45 Rowing, 2 15 News, 3 15 News, 3 45 News, 4 15 News, 4 45 News, 5 15 News, 5 45 News, 6 15 News, 6 45 News, 7 15 News, 7 45 News, 8 15 News, 8 45 News, 9 15 News, 9 45 News, 10 15 News, 10 45 News, 11 15 News, 11 45 News, 12 15 News, 12 45 News, 1 15 News, 1 45 News, 2 15 News, 2 45 News, 3 15 News, 3 45 News, 4 15 News, 4 45 News, 5 15 News, 5 45 News, 6 15 News, 6 45 News, 7 15 News, 7 45 News, 8 15 News, 8 45 News, 9 15 News, 9 45 News, 10 15 News, 10 45 News, 11 15 News, 11 45 News, 12 15 News, 12 45 News, 1 15 News, 1 45 News, 2 15 News, 2 45 News, 3 15 News, 3 45 News, 4 15 News, 4 45 News, 5 15 News, 5 45 News, 6 15 News, 6 45 News, 7 15 News, 7 45 News, 8 15 News, 8 45 News, 9 15 News, 9 45 News, 10 15 News, 10 45 News, 11 15 News, 11 45 News, 12 15 News, 12 45 News, 1 15 News, 1 45 News, 2 15 News, 2 45 News, 3 15 News, 3 45 News, 4 15 News, 4 45 News, 5 15 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7 50 Turning over New Leaves.
 8 News: Sunday Papers.
 9 15 Sunday.
 10 20 A Day in the National Association of Boys' Clubs.
 11 6 News: Sunday Papers.
 12 15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke.
 13 30 Morning Service.
 14 15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
 15 15 The Food Programme.
 16 10 Home-ing in. DIY advice.
 17 10 It's Your World. Ring 01-580 4411 (from 10.30) or talk to D. 10.
 18 10 The Honourable Mr. Justice Goffe.
 19 15 Letter from El Barraco by BBC correspondent Jeremy Harris.
 20 6 News: The Kettering Connection. How a bunch of schoolboys became world-famous satellite spotters.
 21 20 The Living World: fossil mysteries.
 22 6 News: Timber. Profile of conductor Sir Henry Wood.
 23 6 News.
 24 15 Home Wrestling than Dancing.
 25 30 Bookshelf.
 26 7 The Meisterspinger. Thriller serial by Barkley Mather (4).
 27 7 The Thatcher Phenomenon. 2.
 28 7 About Young students Mrs Thatcher's style of government.
 29 6 The British in Venice.
 30 4 A Word in Edgeways.
 31 6 News: Daughters and Sons, by Ivy Compton-Burnett. Drama serial.
 32 6 News: You the Jury. Debate on The BBC should no longer be funded by licence fee alone.
 33 6 There's Music in God. Music and the Bible by Karl Barth.
 34 15 Inside Parliament.
 35 6 News: weather; interval.
 36 23 Shipping forecast.

4.05 6.45-7.45 am Open University
 VHF 6 pm Study on 4.

7.45-8.45 am 6 am As Radio 2, 3, 6 & 9
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Dispute delays Heathrow terminal

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

A dispute between British Airways and the British Airports Authority has delayed the opening of Heathrow airport's new £200 million passenger terminal.

The BA, which owns Heathrow, confirmed last night that the fourth terminal's opening has been put back until early next year, but no fixed date was given.

It was due to open in October to allow Heathrow's capacity to be raised by 3 million to a maximum of 38 million passengers a year. The airport now handles more than 29 million passengers a year.

However, a row has developed over the details of the airline's transfer of flights and staff to terminal four. There have been sharp exchanges between the BA chairman, Lord King, and the BAA chief, Sir Norman Payne, in recent months.

BA wants to transfer all its long-haul flights to the new terminal, but the two state-owned organisations cannot agree on the use of night check-in desks, aircraft docking piers or staff accommodation.

The BAA says the terminal is a prestigious addition to the airport and was planning a lavish opening ceremony for the autumn. It said last night that "hard bargaining" was continuing, but suggestions that the project might "flop" were firmly denied.

"We do not have a £200 million white elephant on our hands," said a spokesman. "We are hoping to reach agreement quite soon."

per hour plus meals — falls entirely on the airline which brought the passengers to the United Kingdom.

The Home Office said last night that it saw nothing wrong in allowing the airlines into the detention centre to try to recover their costs before flying the detainees out of the country.

"We are well aware that a number of carriers have access. They are entitled to talk to any passengers and they do so. As far as we are concerned we take a neutral position and it's not for the Home Office to interfere," a spokesman said.

Mr Michael Barnes, the director of the United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service, denounced the practice.

He said: "The legal position is quite clear — the obligation to meet these costs falls on the airlines. Our view is that the airlines should never be given access to the detention centre."

"Passengers there may well be confused and vulnerable, and it would be all too easy for them to be exposed to exploitation."

Access to detainees is not given at any of the other detention centres connected with ports of entry to the country, only at the Queen's Building centre at Heathrow Airport.

Sale flops

An auction of old master pictures by Christie's in New York has turned out to be a flop. Thirteen of the 20 works on offer failed to reach their reserve prices.

Airline staff allowed into centre to recoup cash from immigrants

Heathrow detainees must pay own bills

By David Rose

Airline staff have regularly been allowed access to people detained by immigration officers at the Heathrow Airport detention centre in order to obtain money from them, the Home Office confirmed last night.

Inquiries by the Guardian have established that several airlines visit detainees due to be deported in an attempt to recoup not only their fare out of the country but also the cost of their detention.

According to the 1971 Immigration Act, the obligation to meet these costs—the detention charges amount to £4.54

per hour plus meals — falls entirely on the airline which brought the passengers to the United Kingdom.

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The centre was criticised by immigrants' organisations earlier this year as being without natural light or ventilation.

Immigration sources say that it is common practice for non-UK carriers to attempt to obtain money from detainees there. Two airlines, Air Malta and Iberia, admitted that their policy is to seek to recover their costs from passengers before departure.

An Air Malta spokesman said that the airline always tried to obtain money from passengers in the Queen's Building, but "this is not always possible."

He said that after gaining access to the detainee, a member of staff would "say that you owe so much money for the ticket and so much for the detention cost."

He blamed the high costs levied by the Home Office on the airlines for the practice: "They have put up the cost of meals and everything."

A spokesman for Iberia said that his company's policy was to seek to recover costs from passengers because "we feel that it is their responsibility."

He said that access to the detention centre varied with the immigration personnel on duty at the time: "Things are handled on a personal basis according to who is on duty on the immigration side."

In one case handled by the UK Immigrants' Advisory Service, an Indian citizen arrived at Heathrow on an Iberia flight with a multi-stop ticket for an architectural tour of Europe.

He was detained in the Queen's Building after being denied access to Britain, and the airline replaced his ticket with one for Maastricht and Bombay. The airline charged him £156.49 for his detention — yet the man was then allowed into the country after the intervention of Lord Avebury.

It took a lengthy correspondence before his ticket and detention charge was refunded.

Continued from page one

followed in a cut in the lending charges by the large American banks. Such a drop in US interest rates would clearly weaken the strong dollar.

The President's decision to freeze defence spending at 1985 levels, with a \$20 billion upwards adjustment for inflation, is likely to lead to a vigorous debate on Capitol Hill about defence priorities. It now appears almost certain that President Reagan will fail to receive the \$3.5 billion of funding for the Star Wars defence system, and other nuclear programmes — particularly the MX missile — could well be threatened. In addition, an assault on the cost of keeping half-a-million troops in Western Europe is expected.

His chief-of-staff, Mr Donald Reagan, last night sought to play down the significance of the defence decision. "On defence the President has made a very careful hedge in that if in fiscal 1986 he thinks that he might need more money for defence, he'll go back to Congress for supplementary funds."

This appeared to be an attempt of muffle any thoughts in Moscow that the US was about to embark on its own version of unilateral disarmament.

The most politically explosive decision taken was to freeze the cost-of-living adjustment of social security and Government pensions, an action specifically ruled out in the election campaign. However, with the Pentagon also having its feet put to the fire this may now be easier to explain to the public.

Many Republican senators, some 21 of whom must seek re-election in 1986, were concerned that a social security freeze without a defence freeze would cost them their seats and a majority in the senior chamber.

Before leaving Portugal for Washington yesterday, President Reagan applauded the deal which was sealed with the Senate as giving him "more than 90 per cent of what we have asked for in the budget."

He also said he had faced a mandate from 79 senators who demanded we have some "cutting" of cost-of-living increases on pensions. However, less than a week earlier Mr Reagan in a phone message from Bonn had described the defence budget freeze as "an irresponsible act."

In fact, under the new budget plan many of the cuts which President Reagan had asked for have been avoided. The so-called middle-class subsidies to the Amtrak railway system, have been merely trimmed.

Mr Reagan appears to have been forced to accept a politically humiliating compromise by forces of politics and economics. The mid-term elections have made Republican senators less pliable than in the President's first term.

CEGB extends check for Legionnaire's to seven power stations

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Seven power station cooling towers in the Midlands and South-east are to be checked for Legionnaire's Disease, the Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday.

The announcement came as cases were reported in Walsall and Stoke-on-Trent. Staffordshire district general hospital, where a death from suspected Legionnaire's Disease in Stoke, had connections with Stafford district general hospital, where the outbreak which has claimed 22 lives began.

The seven cooling towers to be checked are at Rugeley, Staffordshire; Willington, Derbyshire; Ratchford, Cottesmoor, Nottinghamshire; and Diddon, Berkshire. The CEGB said that the checks were part of a public reassurance exercise and that it had no evidence that the

power stations, where water is stored at very high temperatures, had links with the outbreak.

The Department of Health said yesterday that it had no evidence that power stations could be connected with the outbreak of the virus. It is still thought that the cooling towers at Stafford general were the likely source.

There should be irrefutable evidence of the source early next week when the report of the Public Health Service Laboratory team is delivered to the Ministry.

North Staffordshire health authority said that a woman died at Bucknall Hospital, Stoke, two weeks ago from suspected Legionnaire's Disease. Two other patients with the virus had been treated and discharged from hospital.

Mid-Staffordshire health authority confirmed that there had been a case in Walsall, 15 miles south of Stafford.

Iceland claims Rockall shelf

By Patrick Kealey, Diplomatic Correspondent

Iceland has formally served notice on Britain of its claim to a continental shelf, with any oil, gas or other mineral resources it may contain, stretching over some 300 miles across Atlantic waters towards Scotland.

Because it includes the shallow shelf around the small British territory of Rockall, to the west of Scotland, the claim will be swiftly rejected by Britain. A note of protest will be delivered from the British Embassy in Reykjavik to the Icelandic foreign ministry.

In Whitehall last night officials were scoffing at the idea that this new move by Iceland heralds the start of an "oil war" to succeed the three cod wars of recent years which ended with an Icelandic victory.

But the statement delivered to the Foreign Office by the ambassador here, Mr Einar Benediktsson, will mean a legal clash at the International Court in The Hague because Britain claims a 200-mile zone around Rockall, and both Ireland and Denmark have announced claims which overlap with those of Britain and Iceland.

The Icelandic move was triggered off by the Danish claim issued last Tuesday by the prime minister's office.

The Danish claim, based on possession of the Faroe Islands to the north of Scotland, covers a sea area of around 100,000 square miles. As with Iceland's claim, it is not concerned with territorial seas and fishing operations, but with the resources of the continental shelf beneath, at depths of 1,000 feet and more.

The new Icelandic claim turns a deliberately blind eye to the British position on Rockall, where the Royal Navy won a fierce battle in 1972 to raise the flag, and reiterated a historic claim from the days of sailing ships.

Potential oil and gas resources were the motive for that expedition, but Rockall remains bare and uninhabited, and the Icelandic map allows it only 12-mile territorial waters and three-mile shelf of traditional geography.

In Reykjavik, the foreign ministry has issued documents purporting to be the new regulations under which foreigners must apply for mineral drilling rights.

An English translation of these regulations was handed over by Mr Benediktsson when he called at the Foreign Office.

Thatcher's will of iron

Continued from page one

Lawson said the Treasury's agreement had been for an "exceptional" payment he said that Mr Younger might not find it in an open handed mood next year. Mr Younger responded later with the comment that Mr Lawson might not find him so agreeable again. The tension caused by the negotiation was thus made public and helped to remind the conference that the thorny problem of the rates would still be with them next year.

In addition, a new pressure group in the party was formed at a lively fringe meeting when there was strong criticism of the party's organisation and the style of ministers.

On the rates, Mrs Thatcher confirmed that she is determined to have reform on the statute book before the next election but warned the Tories that when a scheme is produced it must be supported by everyone in the party. The debate over a poll tax as a replacement for the present system is likely to be bitter.

Mrs Thatcher said she wanted to build Britain where everyone could become a property owner and where it should be as common for people to own shares as it is for them to own houses or cars.



TOGETHER AGAIN—Polish brothers Brunon Olaszewski (left) from Nottingham, and Alexander Olaszewski, aged 65, are reunited at Heathrow Airport yesterday, after a 46-year separation. Alexander, from Warsaw, is spending a month with his brother

Bombs kill 28 in new Sikh offensive

Continued from page one

The upsurge in terrorism coincided with a drive by extremists to take over the main Sikh party, the Akali Dal. The relatively moderate party president, Mr Harmand Singh Longowal, bought time on Thursday by cancelling a leadership conference called for Gurinder Singh, the man suspected of killing the police, died of his wounds in hospital there yesterday.

The latest incident followed a clash earlier this week in which two police officers were shot dead when they raided a house in a village near Chandigarh, where Sikh gunmen had taken refuge. Mr Joginder Singh, the father of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the preacher of violence who was killed last June when the

army stormed the Golden Temple.

The aura of the "martyred" Bhindranwale is being exploited by Mr Jagdev Singh, the most extreme of the Akali Dal's three warring factions. He is widely believed to have put up Mr Joginder Singh to try to dissolve the party's institutions, replacing them with a council which would resist all compromise with Mr Gandhi's Government.

Head teachers threaten Joseph with conflict

Continued from page one

Negotiations on the pay claim, which is for an initial 12.5 per cent, resume next Wednesday with little hope of settlement after Sir Keith's unyielding response to the approach by local authority representatives on Thursday.

A problem for the employers is the uncertain status of Association of County Council representatives on the management panel of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates teachers' pay.

On Wednesday, the Conservative-dominated ACC will be fielding the same team they did before the county council elections. After the ACC's annual meeting on June 18, there could be a Labour or Labour/Alliance controlled ACC, and different negotiators on Burnham.

The NUT announced yesterday that three more local education authorities—Wolverhampton, Avon, and

Derbyshire—had declared their support for the teachers' pay demands. The three bring the total of supporting authorities to 35. Full agreement with the teachers had also come from the leaders of the Alliance group of councillors on the East Sussex county council.

The NAS/UNT action committee was meeting last night to decide on its programme of strike action for the rest of the term.

THE GUARDIAN PRIZE PUZZLE 17,233

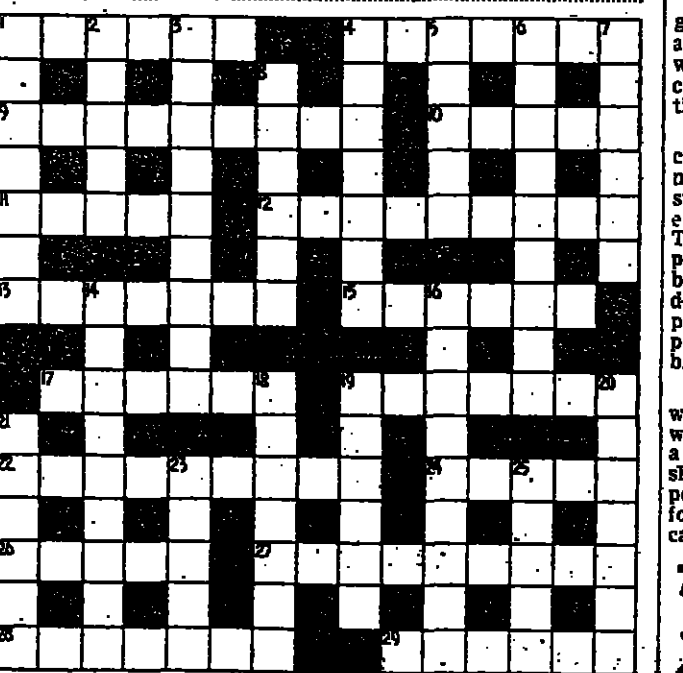
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EVERY across answer must lose the same pair of letters before entry in the diagram. Each across clue comprises a definition of the answer (with the number of letters in brackets) and an indication of the mutilated form to be entered. Down clues and answers are normal.

A £20 cash prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened, and three book tokens, each of £10, for the next three. Send your entry in Guardian Crossword No 17,233, The Guardian, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, to arrive no later than first post on Thursday next week. Solution and winners' names in The Guardian on Monday, May 20.

Name.....

Address.....



- ACROSS
- 1 Dilapidated garret in which clothes are designed and sold (3,5).
 - 4 Porthole's shutter, a great pleasure (4,5).
 - 9 Devotee of remote individual, boasting (11).
 - 10 Shade off imperceptibly to have irritating effect (7).
 - 11 More than one string of invective boxes (7).
 - 12 Organiser of noisy supporters, food and dance returns (5,5).
 - 13 Modesty falling away (9).
 - 15 Eminence swallowing mineral, one seen in the ring (8).
 - 17 They make encroachments in poetry endlessly (8).
 - 19 Stupid craze envelops you (3,6).
 - 22 Sherry might make man too ill (11).
 - 24 No victims of farmer's wife, perhaps, wandering about (7).
- DOWN
- 1 Judge, beginning to uphold unruly youth, rebuffed (7).
 - 2 A person imprisoned in Greece, he's beyond hope of recovery (8).
 - 3 What good drivers need? Reason Ed's unsuitable (4,5).
 - 4 River epidemic, most difficult to understand (7).
 - 5 Firearm for rider on toboggan (5).
 - 6 Short prayer uplifted school, providing a musical embellishment (5,4).
 - 7 Man engrossed in Conservative system of ideas (6).
 - 8 Rival gets you initially irascible (6).
 - 14 Prisoner, earlier a compliant person (9).
 - 16 Not forgetful about temporary home I have (9).
 - 18 One who hails from South Africa, an instrumentalist (7).
 - 19 Baffles, producing stories (6).
 - 20 Orders prophet to look up following month (7).
 - 21 Love diving into tube, a ludicrous descent (6).
 - 23 Excerpt from quite nonsensical sort of saw (5).
 - 25 Man in field's first of mowers, I assume (3,2).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,232

ACROSS

- 1 DILAPIDATED
- 4 PORTHOLE
- 9 DEVOTE
- 10 SHADE
- 11 MORE
- 12 ORGANISER
- 13 MODESTY
- 15 EMINENCE
- 17 ENCROACHMENTS
- 19 STUPID
- 22 SHERRY
- 24 NO

DOWN

- 1 JUDGE
- 2 IMPRISONED
- 3 REASON
- 4 RIVER
- 5 FIREARM
- 6 PRAYER
- 7 MAN
- 8 RIVAL
- 14 PRISONER
- 16 NOT
- 18 ONE
- 19 Baffles
- 20 ORDERS
- 21 LOVE
- 23 EXCERPT
- 25 MAN

Solution 17,232. — The missing letters made the name Yendi Mennabla

THE WEATHER

Sunny periods

A WEAK trough of low pressure will affect parts of South-east England as first, but an anticyclone will develop over Scotland with a ridge of high pressure extending south across remaining areas.

East S. and East E. England, Channel Islands, rather cloudy, a little rain in West. Maximum temperature 15-16°C (59-61°F). Wind S.W. 12-14 mph (20-25 mph).

West S. and West E. England, Channel Islands, mainly dry, some sun, intervals of rain. Maximum temperature 15-16°C (59-61°F). Wind S.W. 12-14 mph (20-25 mph).

North S. and North E. England, Channel Islands, mainly dry, some sun, intervals of rain. Maximum temperature 15-16°C (59-61°F). Wind S.W. 12-14 mph (20-25 mph).

South S. and South E. England, Channel Islands, mainly dry, some sun, intervals of rain. Maximum temperature 15-16°C (59-61°F). Wind S.W. 12-14 mph (20-25 mph).

AROUND THE WORLD

London	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
Edinburgh	14	10-12	Partly cloudy
Birmingham	16	12-14	Partly cloudy
Cardiff	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
Belfast	14	10-12	Partly cloudy
Manchester	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
Nottingham	16	12-14	Partly cloudy
Sheffield	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
Leeds	16	12-14	Partly cloudy
Bradford	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
York	16	12-14	Partly cloudy
Doncaster	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
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Leigh	15	12-14	Partly cloudy
Oldham	16	12-14	Partly cloudy
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Wigan	16	12-14	Partly cloudy
B			